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Mideast water talks set for Peking

PEKING (AFP) — China, showing a desire to expand its role in the Middle East peace process, will host a meeting here this week to explore ways of boosting cooperation over the region's scarce water resources. The three-day multilateral meeting, which opens Tuesday, is the fourth of the working group on water resources since the peace process started, but the first since the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord was signed last month. The meeting represents the first time Peking has hosted a meeting related to the peace process, although China, one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, has said it wanted to play only a limited role. "China supports the Middle East peace talks," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Monday when asked to comment on the significance of this week's meeting. "As the host, China will make efforts for the success of the meeting of multilateral working group on water resources in the Middle East and will continue to make its own contribution to the promotion of the Middle East peace process," she said. More than 30 delegations were to take part and participants said Monday that the new PLO-Israel accord would provide a new impetus. "We're hopeful to see some progress," said Yosef Ben Dor, coordinator of the Israeli delegation.

Bashir orders end to curfew

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's President Omar Hassan Al Bashir Monday ordered an end to a curfew imposed in Khartoum when he seized power in a June 1989 coup, telling parliament the curfew should be lifted in one week. General Bashir said that under his rule Khartoum had become one of the safest capitals in the world, but added that he had instructed authorities to prevent any outbreak of chaos following the move. Deputies in the appointed parliament greeted Gen. Bashir's announcement before he called on "sons of Sudan who now carry arms to reconsider their position and think about the results of their activities." He praised efforts by East African leaders to bring about peace with rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting for a decade to end Islamic northern domination of the mainly Christian and animist south. "We will do our best for the success of this initiative" by Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda, Mr. Bashir said, adding that it could show the world that Africans were capable of solving their own problems.

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France to set up Palestinian TV

PARIS (AFP) — The French state television channel France 2 will set up a Palestinian television station in autonomous Jericho and Gaza Strip by next June, in time for elections there in August, France 2 President Hervé Bourges told AFP on Monday. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) contacted France 2 of "of its own accord," Mr. Bourges said, after receiving proposals from the United States, Britain, Germany and Israel. Mr. Bourges and PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo signed an agreement for the new television station last Friday, during an official visit to France by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. France 2 and France 3 would take in Palestinian trainees and assist the new station in its negotiations with U.N. agencies and for programme exchanges. Mr. Bourges said the project would be financed by the French government, the U.N., the European Community and other international organisations.

Saudis, Yemenis resume talks

SANAA (AP) — Yemeni delegation, expressing optimism, headed to Saudi Arabia Monday for the sixth session of talks on a long standing border dispute. Jaffer Saleh Basaleh, the head of the Yemeni delegation, said he and the others were "optimistic about the seriousness of the talks and the atmosphere of good intentions and mutual trust." In the statement distributed by the official Yemen News Agency SABA, Mr. Basaleh said he hoped the two countries will "achieve what preserves their rights under the precepts of Islamic and international law." The five previous rounds of the talks on the dispute, held alternatively in the two countries, have produced no tangible results. The Saudi team has been led by Matlab Al-Nafissa of the Foreign Ministry in Riyadh. The sixth session was due to be held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, and was postponed for two weeks at Saudi request.

Talks on W. Sahara start at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front on the disputed Western Sahara began here Monday, a U.N. spokesman said. Negotiators from the two sides met separately with the U.N. special representative for the disputed area to discuss what format face-to-face talks should take, said spokesman Ahmad Fawzi. The United Nations said Friday that direct talks would begin Monday. Since 1975, the Polisario Front has called for Western Sahara to be independent, while Rabat wants it to be part of Morocco.

Mortars, rockets fired at Israelis

TYRE (AFP) — Guerrillas on Monday fired mortars and rockets at Israeli and allied positions in South Lebanon, sparking retaliatory shelling, Lebanese security sources said. No casualties were reported. Three Katyusha rockets and seven mortar shells were fired at Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon army (SLA), in Sojoud in Israel's self-declared "security zone," but missed their targets, the sources said.

Iran kill N. Korean World Cup hopes

DOHA (AFP) — Iran ended North Korea's interest in the Asian World Cup qualifying contest by inflicting a 2-1 defeat here Monday. Iran fought back with two goals from Ali Daei after North Korea went ahead in the first half through Choe Won-Nam. Iran are fifth with four points from four games but could still get one of two places from the group for the finals in America. North Korea, bottom with two points, are the only team ruled out of the contest (Japan beats S. Korea, page 9).



A Palestinian released from prison Monday is hugged by relatives in the occupied West Bank town of Nablis (AFP photo)

Israel begins detainee release

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel Monday began freeing almost 700 Palestinian prisoners under an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but halted the release of Muslim fundamentalists after the killing of two soldiers. Around 300 were released by late Monday. The releases were expected to continue into Monday evening and Tuesday, as Palestinian families gathered in the occupied territories, eagerly awaiting the return of their loved ones. "Not all of them can be released on Monday for technical reasons. The rest will be freed on Tuesday," the army spokesman said, adding that 400 of the prisoners came from the West Bank and 260 from the Gaza Strip. The International Committee of the Red Cross says there are 12,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, while Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin points the figure at 9,500. Military radio said the re-

lease of 23 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad had been cancelled after militants claimed responsibility for killing two Israeli soldiers on Sunday (see page 2). "The prisoners due to be released included a small number of Hamas and Islamic Jihad members. They will remain in prison," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Israeli radio. On Monday a Hamas militant rammed a car packed with explosives into an Israeli jeep in Gaza City, but the suicide attack failed because the explosives failed to detonate, military radio said. The soldiers were slightly injured but managed to arrest the attacker. Those prisoners allowed out were women, the sick, and those under 18 or older than 50, in accordance with an agreement reached between Israel and the PLO in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabou on Thursday. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have rejected the Israeli-PLO peace accord on limited autonomy for the Palestinians,

signed in Washington on Sept. 13. Buses took prisoners from several centres across Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The release is meant to muster support among Palestinians for the peace agreement. Israel holds many Palestinians detained for political activity during the six-year-old Palestinian uprising. It says it will not free those convicted of murder. "Each case will be examined separately. Those Palestinians who refuse to recognise Israel for ideological reasons and may carry out attacks will not be released," Mr. Rabin said. Israeli Economy Minister Shimon Shetret said the prisoners to be freed must "support peace and not have blood on their hands." At the Nabli crossing point from Israel to the West Bank, around 100 men, women and children were waiting from lunchtime, carrying pictures of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Palestinian

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Boycott of Israel linked to conflict — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab boycott of Israel has always been linked to the Middle East conflict, and after the conflict has been settled the boycott rules will be dealt with accordingly, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday.

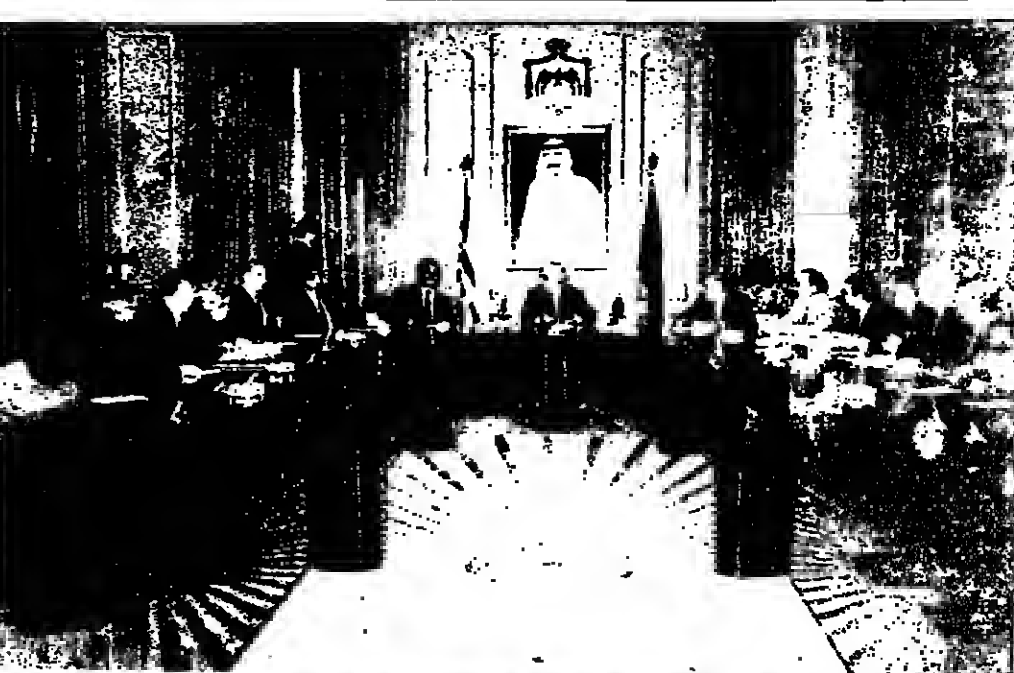
A settlement of the entire issue should not be made at the expense of one party and in favour of another but within an integrated framework of security and cooperation involving all parties and all peoples, said the Prince at the opening of a workshop on the Sept. 13, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord.

Organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), the meeting is being attended by Arab and Jordanian intellectuals and politicians. Following his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Washington on Oct. 1, the Crown Prince said that it would be "economic suicide" for the Arabs to lift the boycott of Israel without gaining something in return.

Referring to future prospects, Prince Hassan told the ATF audience that Jordan holds on to its principled stand with regard to the occupied Arab territories. Since 1967 Jordan has adopted a firm stand with regard to the situation in the region and offered contributions and sacrifices in order to safeguard the Arab character of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Prince Hassan said.

"We hope to see a national Palestinian economy set up in the West Bank and Gaza," he said. "There is need to see a

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with an American Jewish delegation (Petra photo)

King meets U.S. Jewish team, calls for comprehensive peace

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Monday reaffirmed its position that the Arab boycott of Israel could not be dealt with separately from the overall Middle East conflict and urged the Jewish lobby in Washington to use its political influence towards a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, an informed source said. The source said the reaffirmation came during a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and an American Jewish delegation, which arrived here on the third leg of a Middle East tour aimed at easing the secondary effect of the boycott of Israel — a ban on firms trading with Israel and having close links with Israel. Reporting the meeting, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King reaffirmed Jordan's stand vis-a-vis regional and international issues and reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to the Middle East peace process towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the entire world.

Petra did not give details, but the reference to Jordan's stands and commitment to a just and comprehensive peace in the region implied a reiteration of the position that the issue of the boycott of Israel and other byproducts of the Arab-Israeli conflict could only be tackled as part of an overall settlement in the region, analysts said. "Jordan's position is clear," said the source. "It views all the issues linked with the Arab-Israeli conflict as a complete package and would not accept to deal with these issues piecemeal without a clear perception of Israeli economic objectives." "Israel has to respect the right of others in the region and their economic integrity," added the source, noting that Israel was applying a boycott of Jordanian products by preventing their entry into the West Bank. It is estimated that Jordan bought Palestinian products

from the occupied territories worth \$1.4 billion since 1967, when Israel occupied the area. But the Kingdom's exports to the Palestinians were zero because of the Israeli ban. This is an issue expected to be raised during the first meeting, expected next month on the fringes of the 13th round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, of the newly created Jordanian-American economic working group. During Monday's meeting, Jordan also called on the visiting American delegation to use the Jewish community's influence in U.S. political circles, particularly the ruling Democratic Party, in favour of finding a comprehensive and lasting settlement between Israel and the Arabs, the source said. In essence, the Kingdom's position is that it is in the interest of American businessmen and political groups to seek a comprehensive agreement to the Arab-Israeli conflict since all related issues

(Continued on page 3)

Aideed-Ali Mahdi ceasefire shattered

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — A 19-month-old truce between Somalia's two main warlords broke down Monday as rival forces clashed in their first major battle since the ceasefire was signed. Reports said at least 20 Somalis were killed and 45 wounded in fierce battles. The final toll was expected to be higher. U.N. and American troops stayed out of the fray, mindful of the heavy casualties from an Oct. 3 battle that killed 15 Americans and some 300 Somalis. U.S. helicopters scrutinised the action all day but did not intervene other than to drop a smoke flare after a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near the Safari Hotel where most journalists stay. There were reports that Pakistani peacekeepers fired warning shots, but no reports that they had shot at people. The heavy fighting shattered the relative calm along the city's green line, which separates the southern sector held by warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed and Mogadishu's northern neighbourhoods, controlled by Ali Mahdi Mohammed. The sniping with small arms and heavy machine guns died down periodically, only to rekindle. Captain Tim McDavitt, a U.N. military spokesman, said he had reports that about 10 Somalis were killed in the gunbattle which erupted over plans for a peace demonstra-

tion. Other reports said at least 20 were killed. He said 20 Somalis were being treated at U.N. peacekeeping hospitals, many with gunshot wounds, and another 25 were at a Somali clinic. The fighting started when Aideed forces fired at a crowd from northern Mogadishu heading for a peace rally in Aideed's southern fiefdom, witnesses said. Gunmen from the north returned fire and some hurled grenades, the witnesses said. The clash took place near the rally site at Villa Somalia, the old presidential palace of deposed dictator Mohammed Siad Barre. About 200 demonstrators scattered. Gen. Aideed's foreign secretary, Isse Mohammad Siad, denied Gen. Aideed's militia started the fighting and said Gen. Aideed wants to continue the ceasefire he declared Oct. 9. Up to 30,000 supporters of Mr. Ali Mahdi had planned to march into areas held by Gen. Aideed for what was billed as a peace rally. It was organised in support of a conference held in north Mogadishu last week to work out talks among clans on both sides of the city. Gen. Aideed boycotted the conference and his militia arrested three of his clan elders who attended it, the U.N. mission's newspaper Maanta said. Thousands of people were killed in Mogadishu last year in fighting between Gen. Aideed's Haber Gedir clan and the Abgal clan of Mr. Ali Mahdi.

Nigerian dissidents hijack plane to Niger

Combined agency dispatches

NIAMEY — Four armed Nigerians demanding the resignation of the interim government hijacked a domestic flight to Niamey Monday where they released 124 of the 150 people on board the plane, Niger's Transport Minister Souleye Abdoulaye said. The chief of the hijackers, calling himself Kabir, called over the aircraft's radio for the resignation of Nigeria's interim leader, Ernest Shonekan, and his government and demanded the installation of "elected authorities." He said negotiations with the hijackers were broken off around 4:00 p.m. (1500 GMT), about an hour before the release of 122 passengers. Two flight attendants were later also freed. The Nigeria Airways Airbus A130 has not been refuelled. Talks would not resume until "all civilians have been freed," the minister added, refusing to specify whether there were military personnel aboard. Mr. Abdoulaye said the hijackers had promised to free children, women and non-Nigerians aboard the plane if it was refuelled and allowed to fly on to Frankfurt, Germany. Nigeria Airways said the flight, hijacked early Monday after it left Lagos for Abuja, the federal capital, carried 137 passengers and 13 crew. Airport officials denied an earlier statement from the Nigerian transport minister saying that Chinese Vice Presi-

dent Rong Yiren was on board the flight. Four Chinese businessmen were among those released by the hijackers. Informed sources at Lagos airport said, however, that Okun Uya, head of the national electoral commission, might have been aboard the plane. In Abuja, the interim government installed by the outgoing military junta two months ago said it had "made contact with the authorities of the Niger republic and is taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety of the passengers and to secure release of the airport." "Meanwhile, the government assures the public that the situation is under control," Foreign Minister Uche Chukwumerije said. Mr. Abiola, the presumed winner of June's presidential elections, which the junta annulled, condemned the hijack. His spokesman said "we have no link at all with the hijack and the hijackers do not in any way represent us." Passengers said they had not been hurt by the four hijackers, men in their 30s with pistols and knives. The hijackers' leader, saying he was speaking for the hitherto unknown movement for the advancement of democracy, said they wanted an immediate end to the transition government's activities and the investiture of "democratically elected authorities," an apparent reference to Mr. Abiola.

Qatar to finance self-rule — PLO

DUBAI (R) — Qatar promised Monday to help finance a Palestinian self-rule authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said. Hakam Balawi, an official close to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters by telephone from Doha he had secured the promise from Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Al Thani. "Not only did (Sheikh Hamad) stress Qatar's political support but also direct financial aid and active participation in forming the Palestinian authority," Mr. Balawi said. The authority, to be set up

under the PLO-Israel agreement for Palestinian self-rule, is expected to need about \$590 million to cover short-term start-up costs. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, is the only member of the six-country Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to have pledged a specific amount to aid Palestinians. Riyadh offered an initial \$100 million to help them implement the Sept. 13 peace agreement with Israel and more aid later for a long-term development plan. Mr. Balawi said he expected the GCC members — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi

Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — to decide on their exact contributions later this year. Mahmoud Abbas, who negotiated and signed the peace deal for the PLO, secured a pledge from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan during talks in Abu Dhabi on Oct. 18. Until Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 the GCC was the PLO's main political and financial backer, granting it more than \$1.5 billion in the previous 11 years. But the Gulf states, angry at PLO sympathy with Iraq in the Gulf crisis, then stopped all financial aid.

WARNING

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It has been noticed that certain parties in Jordan have recently been offering equipment with the ICL label made under licence by ICIM of India. It must be made clear that ICIM is only generally authorised to sell ICL equipment in the Indian sub-continent.

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Comcent forewarns the public against purchasing equipment manufactured by ICIM - India under the pretence of it being ICL-UK original, and in contradiction to its territorial jurisdiction and authority."

Attacks on foreigners hit Algerian economy

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's battered economy, starved of foreign exchange, is the new target of the armed Islamic groups which have started shooting and kidnapping foreigners, with employers quietly giving instructions for their families to leave the country.

The slaying of seven expatriates in the past month, and Sunday's kidnapping of three French consular staff, have badly damaged a campaign mounted in the past few weeks by new Foreign Minister Mohammed Salah Dendane to restore Algeria's reputation.

Families of expatriate staff working for foreign firms, some of which have operated in Algeria for 20 years or so, disclosed Monday that they had been told to leave, though neither diplomatic sources nor company management would officially confirm the move.

The firms include Siemens and Mercedes-Benz of Germany. Nearly two weeks ago, three armed men held a Mercedes office staffer and his family hostage for nine hours in their Birkhadem suburban home here and told them to pass on a warning to the whole foreign community.

There are an estimated 1,000 Germans in the country.

The Swiss firm Schlumberger and the U.S. oil company Anadarko were believed to be on the point of making the same evacuation decision, but were holding back for the moment to see what happened to the French hostages.

More than 24 hours after they were seized by a main thoroughfare in the city centre, there was still no news about Jean-Claude Thevenot and his wife Michele and Alain Freys-

ler. They were tied up and put in sacks. The van they were thrown into was found hours later at an unspecified spot, reliable sources said, but there had been no word from the captors.

The French embassy repeated advice to be careful, and Ambassador Bernard Kessedjian issued a public statement hoping company chiefs would remain calm.

The two-month-old government of Prime Minister Redha Malek, reversing previous policy, has tried hard to woo outside investors by offering liberal inducements the way neighbouring Morocco and Tunisia do.

They include tax exemptions, financial advantages, complete repatriation of profits and free zones.

The coming year will be especially difficult for the economy, with record external debt repayments looming while income from Algeria's main exports of oil and gas slips back.

Debt servicing is currently calculated at \$9.5 billion for 1994, while income from oil at about \$10 billion to \$10.5 billion would be at least \$1 billion below forecasts.

There is also an expected \$1 billion import bill, including food and semi-finished products, at a time when Algeria is having trouble opening itself up again to the international capital market.

Making foreigners the target of killings and kidnappings has put everything back to square one.

In the view of a foreign company head who has been here a number of years, "It is probably going to need a lot of time to make up the

lost ground and get foreign businessmen back on a plane to Algiers," he said.

The Algerian government promised to do everything possible to save the lives of the three French nationals.

Just 24 hours earlier two Japanese had escaped a kidnapping attempt when a police patrol intervened, the authorities said.

Interior Minister Selim Saadi said on national TV Sunday night that the government was "determined to put into action every means of finding the kidnappers and safeguarding the life of the three foreign nationals."

"France condemns this in-admissible act and demands their release," the French foreign ministry in Paris said in a communiqué announcing the new abductions. The three worked in the French consulate's visa section.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe demanded that Algerian authorities "take the necessary measures to reinforce security for the French community."

A leader in exile of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front urged the three French captives be released as long as they are not intelligence agents.

"If they are innocent French people, I make a sincere appeal to the people who arrested them to free them and not to harm them," Anouar Haddam said in a telephone interview with the French news agency Agence France-Presse.

"It doesn't help the cause unless they are involved," said Mr. Haddam, whose whereabouts were not specified. "It is known that secret service agents are in the embassies."



U.S.-EGYPT SUMMIT: U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) discussed the Middle East peace process (AFP photo)

Hamas cut from release list

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel cut followers of the Islamic militant group Hamas from the list of hundreds of prisoners to be released Monday after the group claimed responsibility for killing two Israeli soldiers.

The most wanted Hamas activist taunted the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by appearing on a Gaza street to shoot off his gun and proclaim that the attacks will continue.

The military announced that 700 prisoners hope to be released starting Monday afternoon. That was down from the 760 elderly, sick, female and teenage prisoners who had been on the list before the shooting death of the two men in the occupied Gaza Strip on Sunday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the prisoners belonging to the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) would remain in jail for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Rabin attempted to calm public anger over the slayings through a series of interviews stressing the difference between Palestinians actively participating in the peace process and those hoping to sink it.

"It's a difficult reality, but we have to deal with it in order not to allow the extremists... trying to kill Israelis and the

peace to determine what is happening," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio.

He said the attack underscored the urgency to press on with the negotiations on implementing Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. The talks resumed Tuesday in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabá.

The release was agreed on during the talks last week. It was a first issue for the Palestinians to show that the peace process is bringing tangible results, and that they could be non-partisan in seeking the release of opponents from Hamas and other groups.

The PLO wants to avoid creating a dividing line between those working with Israel and those fighting it. Among a public that has not entirely accepted the autonomy plan, the imprisonment of men like Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the elderly spiritual leader of Hamas, remains a symbol of fighting Israel.

"It is totally unacceptable for Rabin to start dividing the Palestinians according to their political affiliation," said Saef Erekat, a prominent Palestinian negotiator. The West Bank went on strike to press demands for releasing all prisoners Monday, but the Gaza Strip re-

mained open. Israel says it holds 9,500 prisoners on various charges related to fighting Israel's occupation, although some estimates range above 12,000.

Palestinian negotiators at Tabá said they would all be freed according to a timetable still under negotiation, but Israel is reluctant to release the 500 to 600 responsible for killing or wounding its citizens.

One of the most wanted activists from Hamas appeared in public in the Gaza Strip Sunday night to claim the attack in which they stole an Israeli car, domed Jewish skulls and then shot point-blank two Israeli reservists they picked up hitchhiking.

Imad Akel, a 23-year-old resident of the Jabalya refugee camp who is believed to be the brains behind the Izzeddin Al Qassam Brigades, shot several times in the air in front of the house of Assad Sattawi, the 58-year-old leader of PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement was assassinated through Fatah infighting last week.

"The bullets of Izzeddin will not be shot at our Palestinian brothers but instead will be shot at the enemy," said Mr. Akel, who the Israeli security forces have had on the top of their wanted list for three years.

PFLP and DFLP urge end to clashes

DAMASCUS (R) — Two Palestinian groups Monday called for an end to clashes between rival factions who support and oppose the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace agreement in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

A joint statement issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Damascus-based wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called for a quick end to the fighting.

Members of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah Hawks on Saturday shot and wounded a PFLP supporter in the Rafah refugee camp.

"We call upon all ground leaderships in the Strip to deal with all problems with a sense of responsibility and to work to promote Palestinian unity and to direct all efforts against the Israeli occupation forces and settlers," the statement said.

"We should not give those who are aiming at diverting the national struggle a chance to do what they want," it added.

"We call for the formation of a wide national, democratic and Islamic front under which all those who are keen to drive out the Israeli occupation are grouped," it said.

Hecklers shout down Rabin in mayor campaign swing

TEL AVIV (AP) — Opponents of the peace plan heckled Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Sunday and created such a melee with supporters that he was forced to curtail a downtown speech endorsing Teddy Kollek's reelection as mayor of Jerusalem.

After 200 opponents of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord started jeering "traitor" at Mr. Rabin, border police and body guards formed a protective circle around both men.

Another 200 overzealous supporters pushed back around them shouting: "Rabin, the nation is with you."

The Nov. 2 mayoral election for a four-year term is viewed as especially critical this year because the issue of who controls Jerusalem is expected to come up in negotiations with the Palestinians on the final status of the occupied territories within five years.

Mr. Kollek, 83, has been dropping in the polls to Likud challenger Ehud Olmert, 48, who has successfully made age an issue.

Although both sides reject dividing Jerusalem or compromising on keeping it Israel's "capital," Mr. Rabin's Labour government fears a Likud win could make implementing the

peace plan more difficult if it causes upheavals in Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Kollek spent the afternoon stumping together in a Jewish neighbourhood near the eastern Arab quarters of the city, and later pumped flesh in a poor neighbourhood.

"Not since Herod has there been a glorious builder of Jerusalem like Teddy Kollek," Mr. Rabin said, referring to the Roman emperor. "If you want to maintain the continued development of Jerusalem... you need to let Teddy fulfill a lifetime endeavour."

Mr. Kollek, mayor since 1965, needs as much support as he can get. Recent polls have indicated he is just two percentage points ahead of Mr. Olmert, a former minister of health and Arab affairs advisor to the prime minister.

Mr. Olmert has successfully criticised Mr. Kollek for the poor state of the city's basic services like roads and schools, which have not kept pace with development.

Jerusalem leans to the political right in elections and Mr. Olmert is also playing off jitters felt by many Israelis about losing parts of the city to the Arabs under the autonomy plan with the PLO.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan faction pulls out of talks with Carter

ATLANTA (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter said Sunday that one of two warring Sudanese factions scheduled to hold peace talks here had withdrawn and would not meet with him as previously announced. In a statement released from the Carter presidential centre here, Mr. Carter said he would meet with Riek Machar, chairman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army-United (SPLA). But the head of a rival faction operating in southern Sudan, John Garang, said his Sudanese People's Liberation Army would not meet with Carter. The two groups met last week in Washington without Mr. Carter present and sources close to the negotiations said they had agreed to a ceasefire, but it was unclear whether both had signed the agreement. The Carter Centre said they could provide no details on the negotiations in Washington thus far. In Sunday's statement, Mr. Carter said: "After a lengthy phone conversation with Dr. John Garang, chairman of the SPLA, on Friday, he felt that the conditions were not favourable for his participation in further talks at this time, and elected to return to Sudan with his delegation." In his earlier statement announcing the talks between the two SPLA factions, Mr. Carter had said he hoped to reconcile the two groups and then to include the Sudanese government in Khartoum in broader talks to end the war which has claimed more than a million lives, most of them civilians.

Ciller reshuffles cabinet over criticism

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey's interior minister was removed from his post Sunday after criticism he has been incompetent in leading the government's war against Kurdish guerrillas. As part of a cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, the Interior Ministry post went to Nihat Metazo, who had been serving as education minister in her four-month-old centre-right coalition. The interior minister, Mehmet Gazioglu, was appointed state minister. Mr. Gazioglu's removal appeared to signal the start of a more decisive fight by the state against the Kurdish insurgency in the southeast, where the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party has been fighting for self-rule since 1984. The fighting has claimed 8,000 lives. Two other ministers from Ms. Ciller's True Path Party were involved in the shuffle. Defence Minister Nevzat Ayaz was appointed the new education minister and his post was given to State Minister Mehmet Gollan.

Kurdish rebels repeal foreign press ban

PARIS (R) — A Paris group closely linked to anti-Turkish Kurdish guerrillas said on Sunday the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) had revoked a ban prohibiting foreign reporters from streets of southern Turkey where it operated. "The (Paris-based) Kurdistan committee invites all the journalists of the situation," said a committee spokesman, making clear he had PKK clearance for the announcement. "We are ready to help the journalists to ease their work on the spot," said the spokesman whose office regularly informs the French press on Kurdish rebel activities. The Kurdish news agency Kurd-Ha quoted senior PKK commander Cemil Bayik on Oct. 18 as saying Turkish newspapers were prohibited from the area together with the foreign press. The offices of five big Turkish national dailies in the region were shut the next day when journalists heeded the rebel threat to stop reporting. The Paris spokesman told Reuters he especially hoped reporters would travel to the town of Lice. He said 380 Kurdish civilians had been killed there by Turkish troops since Friday. In Turkey, the Anatolian news agency said on Saturday that nine people, five PKK rebels, three children and a teacher — had been killed since Friday in Lice in clashes that erupted after PKK guerrillas shot a general. Turkish authorities clamped a curfew of Lice on Saturday after the killing a day earlier of Genarmen Brigadier-General Bahtiyar Aydin.

Majlis clamps down on bureaucratic misdeeds

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament voted overwhelmingly Sunday to bar government workers from a range of activities, including illicit contact with foreigners, Freemasonry and disrespect for Islamic principles. The ruling, the first of its kind since the 1979 Islamic revolution, was intended to clean up the atmosphere in government offices and lighten bureaucracy, several parliamentarians said. The punishments are introduced for a long list of offences cited by the parliament. They range from warnings to withholding wages, demotions and sackings. The parliament banned government workers from establishing illicit contacts with foreigners, but not specify what forms of links were unacceptable. In an apparent reference to the Bahai faith, which has been declared illegal in Iran, the parliament also outlawed membership in religious cults and freemasonry groups. Freemasons and Bahais were highly active in Iran before the revolution, with the former operating from more than 100 centres nationwide. The offences cited by the parliament would be reviewed by a committee of devout Muslims and revolutionaries, to be set up in every government department. Punishments for such offences have so far been unclear and been imposed arbitrarily.

Pik Botha to visit Tunisia — report

TUNIS (AFP) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha will visit Tunisia on a ground-breaking trip next month, according to a report in the independent Le Temps newspaper here Sunday. The report, which was not confirmed by the government, said the two countries would also open interest offices in each other's capitals — usually a precursor to establishment of diplomatic relations. The newspaper said Mr. Botha, who is the world's longest-serving foreign minister, would arrive in Tunis on Nov. 15. Tunisia, like all other Arab countries, boycotted South Africa after the apartheid years. Last week Tunisian banks received a memo from the central bank ordering them to take South Africa off their transactions blacklist. South Africa is also taking part in a 32-country Arab African trade exhibition which has been taking place since Friday near the Tunisian capital. African National Congress President Nelson Mandela applied on Sept. 24 for all remaining diplomatic and economic sanctions against South Africa to be lifted, ahead of multiracial elections planned for April.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Sans Frontières
18:30 Le Monde Sans Frontières
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 People Next Door
21:10 Brand New Life
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Under Current"

PRAYER TIMES

04:25 Fajr
05:43 Sunrise
12:28 Dhuhr
12:58 Asr
15:57 Maghrib
18:14 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Epiphany Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes. There will be a chance of thunderous showers in the eastern parts of the Kingdom, and winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 16/29

Aqaba 22/36

Deserts 13/32

Jordan Valley 21/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 756988
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 883880
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 946170
Dr. Basim Qadumi 648633
Fires pharmacy 661912
Al Asma pharmacy 776336
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Sincere pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 947632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi (-)
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Issa Al Omari 901266
Khalifah pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 611111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 721111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

HOSPITALS

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:

Hassan Medical Centre 813812/22

Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akikah Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642662

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4

Shamsi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muhsen Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Abli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajrez 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 75111/26

Army, Marj 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 686100

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)905560

Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)999990

Princess Basma Hospital (02)225535

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:30 Damascus (RJ)

07:30 Dhahran (RJ)

08:45 Aqaba (RJ)

09:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:35 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 Cairo (MS)

14:45 Beirut (AE)

15:45 Beirut (AE)

20:00 Aden (TY)

23:00 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Aqaba (RJ)

08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:00 Vienna (RJ)

11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

11:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)

11:50 London (RJ)

12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)

12:55 Cairo (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives cable from Qatar's Sheikh Mohammad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a cable from Sheikh Mohammad Al Thani, brother of the Emir of Qatar, expressing appreciation to the King for the hospitality accorded him during his visit earlier this month to Jordan. In the cable, Sheikh Mohammad paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts to end inter-Arab differences and close Arab ranks. King Hussein also Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Austrian President Thomas Klestil on Austria's national day. The King wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress for the Austrian people.

Voter card distribution continues

AMMAN (Petra) — Zarqa Governor Misieb Tarawneh reported Monday that 41 per cent of the registered voters in the governorate claimed their voting cards. He also announced that special operations room have been set up to deal with any problems related to voter card distribution. In North Shmeh, District Governor Saleh Obelidat said a total of 39,548 cards were distributed, while in Tafleeh two thirds of the total of 27,085 voting cards were collected.

Minister urges cultivation of export vegetables

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Monday visited the south Jordan Valley region and urged local farmers to produce vegetables that have a market abroad. The minister was accompanied by the director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), Salem Lawzi who said that his department was striving to open markets abroad for Jordanian agricultural products.

Transport minister returns from talks in Vienna

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Salman Al Tarawneh Monday returned to Amman from Vienna where he took part in a meeting to discuss railway strategies in Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Iran. The World Bank organised the meeting which listened to a Jordanian working paper on railway issues of the Arab region.

Woman shooting suspect stopped at border

AMMAN (Petra) — A 20-year-old woman, identified as S. H., was reported to have shot and seriously wounded her two brothers and tried to escape to Syria, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The report said that the woman, who is from Zarqa, took a car from Amman, but was stopped at the border post of Ramtha. It said the shooting followed a family feud.

Environment symposium opens in Tafleeh

TAFILEH (J.T.) — A two-day symposium entitled "Dangers of Nuclear Energy and Radiation" opened in the southern town of Tafleeh Monday, and according to the organisers, questions related to environment pollution in the southern regions of Jordan will be the focus of deliberations. Organised by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) of Germany, the meetings will review working papers which deal with the environmental dimension within the democratisation of Jordan, nuclear energy applications and alternatives, nuclear radiation measurements in Tafleeh, health risks and dangers of nuclear radiation and legal approaches to dealing with environmental issues on national, regional and international levels.

Pharmaceutical union to meet Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Assembly of the Arab Union of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Medical Appliances will convene in Amman Saturday. The union's general annual report and plans for next year will be reviewed at the meeting.

Pop music festival at Culture Palace

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation is organising a Pop Music Festival to be held on Saturday, Oct. 30 at the Palace of Culture/Al Hussein Sports City. Five professional local groups will be participating in this festival which is the first of its kind in Jordan. By organising such an event, the conservatory seeks to address the interests of the young and to provide local talents with the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities to a wide audience that is highly appreciative of this kind of music. The programme of the festival will feature songs by Phil Collins, Pink Floyd, Dire Straits, U2 and many more. The conservatory has exerted every effort to ensure the success of this festival. Special attention has been given to providing an impressive lighting and sound system. Muhammad Al Jazireh and Rania Kassiebeh from Radio Jordan will host the festival.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan International (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mubshir al-Mubshir entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Cas Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).
- ★ Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sabah Haddid at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lamhaz at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

FILMS

- ★ French film entitled "I am the Lord of the Palace" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

- ★ Workshop on writing and tuning of children's songs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Petroleum and Arab Future" by Dr. Ibrahim Badran at the Arab Thought Forum (in Shmehsal) at 7:00 p.m.

Experts review progress in region's afforestation, food security projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on protecting the environment and ensuring food security for the Arab World went into its second day Monday, with the delegates reviewing seven working papers from the Arab World and Turkey.

Organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the four-day workshop was designed to discuss progress in two near eastern projects related to environment protection and food security and financed by Japan and Italy.

According to the Arab coordinator for the project on protecting the environment through forests, Soleiman Abbadi, four working papers from Jordan, Egypt and Algeria

will be reviewed by the delegates who represent the countries where the Japan-financed project is being implemented.

These countries are Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Egypt, Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan.

Mr. Abbadi said that there was urgent need for closer cooperation among the Arab countries in implementing the same projects and in benefiting from the U.N. agencies' expertise in this regard.

The project, he added, is aimed at helping governments and national organisations conduct afforestation projects that protect the environment and pave the ground for increasing food production since trees help preserve water resources, and shrubs and pasture lands provide food for the animals. The delegates, he noted, will

appraise national experiments in forest afforestation and the production of wood and other related topics.

Mr. Khalil Warikat the coordinator for the environment and food security project, said the scheme is being implemented in Jordan, Turkey and Syria and financed by the Italian government.

This project, he said, aims to promote training of personnel to carry out afforestation and agricultural extension services.

Mr. Warikat said the delegates will be taken Tuesday on a field trip to examine Jordan's environmental experiments.

He said the tour will take the delegates to waste water treatment plants, several forest areas in Ajloun, a nursery near Deir Alla in the central Jordan Valley and Ma'teen, South of Madaba.



Jabal Amman's busy Third Circle. The Traffic Department has introduced several new measures to help improve safety on the Kingdom's roads and highways (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Traffic department to issue road trip permits to hired buses

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Public Security Department (PSD) adopted new measures to insure the safety of children and passengers during road trips made on hired buses.

Drivers of school and mini buses (service) in the Kingdom are required to have their buses inspected at the traffic department each time they plan a road trip.

If their buses are mechanically safe and pass the traffic department's tests, the driver will be issued a permit for that particular trip.

Drivers of buses bound for Saudi Arabia for Omra (smaller pilgrimage) are required to follow the same procedures, a police source said.

The PSD step follows a critical newspaper article in the leading Arabic daily Al Ra'i in which it was reported that a school bus carrying 45 Ibn Abbas School students, ages 13 to 16, caught fire

while returning from Ma'teen spa a week ago.

According to the article, although the bus driver was issued a permit from the traffic department, he did not follow safety regulations.

The bus did not have a fire extinguisher or a first aid kit. In addition, the driver was pulled over by traffic officials twice, and was fined once for a broken light.

Students jumped from the windows to escape the fire, but no one was seriously injured in the accident. Three students suffered smoke inhalation.

The bus, which was not insured, was damaged beyond repair, according to the article.

The new inspection requirements aim to reduce the number of road accidents and insure safety of bus passengers during road trips.

"Our main concern is the safety of the bus passengers, especially youngsters," a PSD official told the Jordan Times. "We must make sure

that the bus is mechanically ready for a road trip before issuing any driver a permit," he added.

The traffic department will check whether the bus brakes and the engine are functioning properly; whether the tyres are in good shape and the bus has a spare tyre and whether the bus carries a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher.

The PSD official said that be requiring drivers to inspect their buses, the traffic department will be able to control the number of buses that go on road trips.

The traffic department urges all bus drivers to take the necessary steps to maintain their buses to meet department specifications before having their buses inspected to save the department time and effort.

The PSD official said that violators caught without a permit will be subject to legal prosecution, adding that traffic officials will maintain strict measures when inspecting road trip buses.



A produce market in Salt. Boosting food production is a major concern of agricultural and environmental experts in the Arab World (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Workshop recommends inter-Arab exchange of irrigation equipment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Three-day workshop on the requirements of modern irrigation in the Arab World Monday appealed to Arab governments to encourage in the Arab exchanges of modern irrigation equipment.

The workshop, which ended Monday with a set of recommendations, also appealed to Arab governments to facilitate credit to farmers so that they can acquire and use such equipment on a larger scale and boost food production.

The workshop, which was attended by 24 delegates and agricultural experts representing 14 Arab countries, called

on the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the meeting organiser, to take the lead in providing Arab countries with knowledge to manufacture irrigation equipment and conduct a general survey in the Arab World to determine its requirements of such equipment.

A statement issued at the end of the meetings also urged the AOAD to help transfer modern technology on manufacturing irrigation equipment and promote the work of national agricultural extension services which are related to water supply and irrigation.

The statement called on the

AOAD to set up a pan-Arab information network that would coordinate the work of research centres and universities, and on Arab countries to step up their cooperation with the AOAD to enable it to carry out its activities.

At the opening session, Saturday, the delegates listened to an outline of Jordanian experiments in drip irrigation systems, which are widely used in the Kingdom. Other experiments reviewed at the meeting were those of Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Libya, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Tunisia, Yemen and Palestine.

Three new ambassadors take oath of office

AMMAN (Petra) — Three newly-appointed Jordanian ambassadors were sworn-in before His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court Monday.

They were Husam Abu Ghazaleh, ambassador to Austria, Dr. Faysal Al Rabie, ambassador to Yemen, and Samir Naouri, ambassador to China.

Present at the swearing-in ceremony were Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's advisor Yanal Hikmat and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tal Al Hassan.



King meets U.S. Jewish delegation

(Continued from page 1)

could be tackled once such a framework is worked out, the source said.

The team's meeting with the King was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's adviser Yanal Hikmat, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani and Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Faysal Tarawneh.

Even before the delegation arrived officials and analysts said it was unlikely that the team would score any success in convincing Jordan to ease the application of the boycott of Israel.

Clinton administration officials have said that Washington was pushing the idea of a gradual lifting of the Arab embargo on Israel through eliminating the secondary boycott under which Arab countries refuse to deal with companies doing business with the Jewish state.

Prince Hassan, in an Oct. 1 press conference in Washington, said it would be "economic suicide" for the Arabs to lift the embargo without gaining anything substantial for the Arab World.

"There is no shift in the Jordanian position," a senior official said last week. "The boycott of Israel is not a Jordanian issue alone. It is a pan-Arab decision related to pan-Arab interests and Jordan would not take any step without pan-Arab consensus on the

move."

Prince Hassan, addressing a conference in Amman Monday, reiterated that the boycott was closely linked to the Middle East conflict and the embargo could be dealt with only within an "integrated framework of security and cooperation involving all parties and peoples." (see separate story).

The American delegation is scheduled to hold talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tal Al Hassan today. The team will also meet with Jordanian businessmen.

The U.S. delegation flew to Jordan with only strong Saudi backing for the Middle East peace process.

The Saudis were "very desirous of peace and wanted it to succeed," Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview at the end of the four-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

The group of 10 Jewish leaders representing a cross section of the business and legal fields met with a number of senior Saudi officials, including Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, intelligence chief Prince Turki Al Faisal, Commerce Minister Suleiman Al Solaiman, and Minister of Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Turki.

The delegation included one woman, former attorney general designate Zoe Baird. The Jewish group was hosted by the Saudi Chamber

of Commerce for dinner one evening and visited a number of Saudi businesses.

Mr. Lifton said the Arab boycott was discussed "within the context of it impeding American joint ventures with Arab firms" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as they gain autonomy from Israel under the Sept. 13 agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jewish state.

He said a strong case was made against the boycott in the territories. The group pointed out that American companies were wary of running afoul of U.S. anti-boycott legislation in teaming up with Arab firms to invest in the area, he said.

Also, said Mr. Lifton, "we made the point that steps should be taken, signals given, that would encourage the Israelis." But, he added, they heard "no affirmation of what the Saudis would do."

Mr. Lifton noted that Jewish group had noticed a definite "change in attitude" towards the peace process since their first visit to the kingdom over a year and half ago.

He said they had detected an "underlying optimism" on the part of the Saudis. "They think the breakthrough was really a breakthrough."

The Saudis also gave the American group the opportunity to tour different regions in the country, including the mountainous Asir region in the southwest and the oil-producing Eastern Province.

Jordan Times

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Ministers on the house

WHILE THE election campaign has thus far failed to produce the expected thorough debate on the major issues facing the country, it did tackle one controversial matter that might be addressed in the first days of the coming Parliament.

Should deputies hold cabinet positions or not? The issue was consistently raised during the 11th Parliament's term when so many members of Parliament became ministers in the first three governments that assumed office during its term. The reaction, however, was mixed and no final answer was reached.

It may be easy to dispense with the experiences and traditions of other government systems in the world, specially those that have developed deeper roots in parliamentary democracies, on the premise that Jordan has unique circumstances which warrant a different treatment of the same issue. This is a faulty argument, however, because the country should learn from the experiences of others, even though it need not copy any given system in its entirety. Adjustments to suit the domestic political environment are in fact a must. There is a big problem with implementing a system of parliamentary democracy under which the party with the majority in the chamber of deputies would form the government. It is that no political party in the country is large enough to control a majority and win a vote of confidence relying solely on its own members or allies.

A government therefore will have to be formed from independent legislators, parliamentarians who belong to different political groups and other ministers chosen by the prime minister-designate. The problems that such a system poses when the cabinet is presented for a vote of confidence were clearly demonstrated during the term of the previous parliament.

The most difficult complications of such a system is that the prime minister will have to deal with a wide spectrum of political orientations and demands from deputies who are not bound by a political platform of say one, two or three parties to which they belong. The prime minister would at no point be certain that he could continue to have the vote of confidence as long as he followed the agreement and policies of his party or those in which he would have gone into coalition as the case would be in systems where one party controls a majority in the House. This is a problem with which Jordan would have to live until the political environment changes to one in which parties have parliamentary majority.

The Constitution does not oblige the King to restrict his choice of a premier to members of the House or requires the prime minister-designate to choose members of his cabinet from among deputies. For practical considerations, like the need for a vote of confidence, however, this might become the norm in the future when the political life in the Kingdom fully matures and limited parties win the support of the majority of the people.

Until then, the debate on whether deputies should or should not be ministers will not be resolved. Arguments that they should practically litter the political scene, but so do those which say that they should not.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday demanded that the Ministry of Supply interfere and put an end to price manipulation and control the quality of food presented by restaurants. Recently, the ministry has been receiving a flood of complaints from the public about these matters and has called for a meeting chaired by the minister himself to discuss the situation, but nothing is known yet about the results, said Nazih. The meeting two weeks ago was called to fix the prices of drinks and food offered to customers in restaurants with a view to helping these restaurants to make reasonable profit and protecting the public interest at the same time, said the writer. The prices of food and drinks have been unacceptably high and the quality is not up to the required standard, mainly due to the absence of control over these restaurants and their services by the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Health, charged the writer. He said the restaurants are hacked in their position by a court decision that says the Ministry of supply has no jurisdiction over the restaurants' work if these restaurants are affiliated to classified hotels. There is need for the Ministry of Supply to interfere through proper legislation in order to control the quality of services and the rates of these restaurants, demanded the writer. We hope, said the writer, to hear from the ministry the outcome of the meeting which was attended by concerned parties to discuss solutions and to see drastic steps taken to stop manipulations and profiteering.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS are two weeks away from now, but lack of enthusiasm about voting is manifest on the part of the majority of people, especially inhabitants of the rural regions and villages, said a columnist in Al Dustour. Perhaps many people believe that as the elections are of interest to the candidates, they themselves should undertake the task of collecting the voting cards and deliver them to their owners, said Saleh Al Qallab. In rural regions and in poor districts of main cities candidates are shouldering the task of obtaining the voting cards from distribution centres and delivering them to the voters and also pledging to transport by car, bus the voters to the voting centres on election day, said the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

Political Tarzans, elections and an Arab epic

Halfway through the parliamentary election campaign, we seem to have a mixed picture of our political culture; the dominant reality is that traditional social and cultural factors remain far stronger determinants of our national character than ideological sentiments or modern political and institutional structures. I would list the following as the most noteworthy trends to date in the election campaign:

1) The triumph of tribalism as the most powerful force in the land. The decision to hold the elections on the basis of the one-person one-vote system immediately peeled away the novel veneer of political modernism and ideological pluralism that had started to accumulate on the Jordanian body politic; we saw that the vast majority of voters were moved more by blood ties than by political promises. Having only one vote to cast, voters were forced to reveal their true allegiances and sentiments and seem to have chosen tribalism as the source of their identity and their security.

This is a clear indication that the structures of organised political pluralism remain very thin in our society. Most people who need assistance, comfort, protection or support do not look to the state to provide these vital needs, but rather to their family, cousins, friends and colleagues. Yet, tribalism is not necessarily a bad thing, as most western observers seem to deem it. Rather, tribalism may be the vehicle by which traditional societies such as ours are able to make the transition to modernity in a relatively orderly, if slow, manner.

2) The supremacy of patriarchy. The strength of tribalism is closely linked to the dominance of patriarchy as the defining attribute of our social and political structures. Patriarchy remains strong and comfortable to most people because for about the last five thousands years of human civilisation in this region it has always been the ultimate source of people's survival, security and hope for future progress.

It is not only culturally authentic and indigenous, but it is also intellectually and physically much less demanding than the rigours of ideological pluralism, democratic accountability, public power-sharing and checks and balances — therefore, it is chronically attractive to traditional folks like ourselves whose physical environments are characterised by resource fragility and whose national configurations are characterised by institutional and structural fragility. It is no surprise that we should embrace patriarchy as our defining political characteristic, given the fact that we have been historically buffeted by confusingly alternating conditions of empire, caliphate, republic, provincial autonomy, fiefdom, independent statehood, foreign occupation, imperial tutelage, indigenous monarchy, pan-Arab nationalism, socialism, army rule, rampant oil-fuelled commercialism, trans-national Islamic identity and sub-regional groupings.

It is most telling that the leader of the Islamic Action Front, Dr. Ishaq Farhan, should have said the other day that if the government does not adequately respond to his party's complaints about alleged government interference in the election campaign, he would seek an audience with King Hussein. He does not mention going to the courts, organising a mass political campaign, forming coalitions with other disenchanted political groupings from the left and centre or exploring other appropriate responses that are now available in a democratising political system; rather, he wants to see the King. We are fortunate to have an enlightened Monarch who is seen as the accessible, ultimate arbiter of disputes; but we should also recognise what this says about the underlying

socio-political structures of our society.

Patriarchy — like tribalism, religion, ethnicity, the weather, the environmental base and other cultural building blocs — is a force that should not necessarily be viewed in judgemental terms. One could argue for and against patriarchy as the most appropriate system of social organisation, but this would be a fruitless debate because patriarchy is already such a powerful element in our lives and cannot be quickly changed. Rather, the real and largely neglected challenge is to assess how we can synthesise the positive aspects of patriarchy with our apparent desire to move forward towards more modern forms of pluralistic democracy.

"The Jordanian experience during this election campaign will not answer questions, but it will define the questions more clearly; and that, one suspects, is an achievement for which Jordan can take credit in this historical Arab epic of individuals, families, clans, tribes, religions, ethnic groups and larger national communities seeking relationships and formal structures that endure because they make sense to their own people."

3) The failure of political parties to take off. The 20 odd parties that have been licensed have had little impact on society and appear to be almost non-existent in the electoral campaign, except for the Islamic Action Front. This is a direct consequence of the strength of tribalism and patriarchy. Like most of the structures of statehood, political parties are not yet viewed as a source of sustenance, security or identity. Forced to choose between their tribal/ethnic/cultural links and the promises of political parties, most people have turned to their blood ties.

Interestingly enough, most political parties have themselves succumbed to the irresistible force of tribalism, in that most parties are top-heavy, tribal-based mini-patriarchies headed by one or more leading personalities, with little grassroots following. This, also, is not necessarily a bad thing; it may be that the synthesis of tribalism and our fragile, thin political parties will provide the mechanism by which we make the slow transition from traditionalism to modernism. It is probably inevitable that our parties will be dominated by tribal heaves for a few years, until the parties take root and start to offer the people compelling reasons to take them seriously — such as responding to people's real practical needs, providing credible political accountability, blocking abuse of power and autocracy or simply responding to people's nationalistic emotional needs. This will happen in time, but not this year.

4) The fears of the Islamists. I sense that the Islamists, as represented mainly by the Islamic Action Front, are concerned about their ability to win as big this year as they did in 1989. Most objective factors point to the fact that the Islamists peaked about three years ago and now have to work harder to

retain their followers. Their objections to the government's alleged interference in the electoral campaign are not very convincing. The Islamists' threat to boycott the election is a sign of worry and perhaps even some panic. It will also not work.

The election process, like the overall democratisation in Jordan, is certainly an imperfect beast. Our democratic tendency is serious, important and genuine, but it is also very thin, flawed and conditional. Nevertheless, it is an accurate reflection of our identity and culture and it is up to us to make it stronger and more responsive. The Islamists and others are correct to object to the government's ban on public rallies; the ban is like holding a football match and telling the spectators they cannot cheer. The ban reflects a combination of autocracy, immaturity and insecurity that we should have shed a long time ago, but the fact is we have not yet shed them. It is also the government's right to make such decisions and the people's right to challenge them, according to the rules of the game.

For the Islamists to threaten to boycott the elections, however, is a sign of even greater immaturity that will hurt the Islamists in the long run. Those who boycott legitimate national polls — like the Lebanese rightists, Cambodia's Khmer Rouge and others in recent history — will be forgotten by the majority that wishes to play by the rules, regardless of the flaws in the rules. Islamists who boycott the elections will find themselves sidelined and largely ignored, as happened to Hamas when it tried to take an extreme stand on the 400 Palestinians who were deported to south Lebanon last year.

5) The collapse of female politics. The very low number of women candidates (only three) is also a consequence of the triumph of tribalism and patriarchy. The three women are more intelligent, more rational and probably more qualified than most of the men who are running; but, unfortunately, that is besides the point, because this election is not an exercise in quality control — it is an affirmation of tribal identity and communal self-assertion by our men desperately seeking a combination of power, recognition and security that our culture has always provided them through the mechanisms of political and social manhood, i.e., patriarchy, tribalism and autocracy. One-person one-vote has dealt a severe but temporary blow to the prospects of women in public life — which is a great shame, because our men have made a terrible mess of public policy-making in the last, oh, four or five centuries, and they could surely use the help of our women in this respect.

All these factors suggest that our society and political cultures are sending mixed signals to the chronicle of history. Are we advancing or retreating? Are we more or less secure because of our passionate embrace of patriarchal tribalism? Will the next five thousand years be better or worse than the last five thousand years of village and urban civilisation?

The Jordanian experience during this election campaign will not answer these questions, but it will define the questions more clearly; and that, one suspects, is an achievement for which Jordan can take credit in this historical Arab epic of individuals, families, clans, tribes, religions, ethnic groups and larger national communities seeking relationships and formal structures that endure because they make sense to their own people.

RAMI G. KHOURI © 1993

Getting away with murder — the lives behind the lies

The following is a report issued by London-based Amnesty International (AI):

Political killings and "disappearances" worldwide now pose the greatest threat to human rights in the 1990s — and the international community is failing to stop them, Amnesty International said on Oct. 20 as it launched a major campaign to end the bloodshed and terror.

"Hopes that human rights would be respected in the much-heralded 'new world order' have been shot down," said the organisation. "Instead, old regimes, newly-formed governments and armed opposition groups are turning their streets into killing grounds or causing their opponents to vanish without trace."

While military dictatorships and authoritarian regimes were once the main culprits, increasingly governments supposedly committed to human rights are gunning down or

abducting their opponents as part of deliberate policies of repression.

"The power of the state is increasingly being turned to cold-blooded murder, its officials trained in the skills of the assassin and the kidnapper," said Amnesty International. "These acts — sometimes secret, but often brazen killings and kidnappings with no pretence at legality — fly in the face of international standards and are outlawed even in war."

And the 1990s have seen horrific levels of this killing and cruelty in countries struggling to achieve political reform, such as South Africa or Cambodia, in ethnic or nationalist conflicts such as in former Yugoslavia and in countries facing massive unrest such as Somalia and Zaire.

But there can be change — international pressure led to the release of over 300 "disappeared" people in Morocco in 1991 after up to 18 years, for

example, although many people remain unaccounted for in that country.

Yet too often the international community turns a blind eye to these violations. And governments guilty of mass killings and "disappearances" are repeatedly supported or shielded from criticism by powerful allies more interested in protecting strategic or economic interests than human rights.

In the 1980s, for example, the governments of France and the United States, among others, armed, trained and financed the Chadian security forces while those same forces systematically butchered thousands of defenceless civilians.

Amnesty International's report "getting away with murder: political killings and 'disappearances' in the 1990s" says that people from all walks of life and all regions of the world — including young children

and even babies — have been deliberately targeted for "disappearance" or death by governments and armed opposition groups.

Governments such as those of Iraq and Myanmar make no attempt to hide their brutality. Others, for example India or Turkey, pay lip-service to human rights on the one hand but kill on the other, relying on cover-ups or blatant lies, or — as in Colombia and the Philippines — covert operations involving "death squads" or armed paramilitary groups.

From Peru and Togo to Sri Lanka and Tajikistan, governments allow security forces to violate human rights with impunity.

Armed political groups such as the Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path), the Kurdish Workers' Party in Turkey and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, have committed gross atrocities and claimed thousands of lives. In India,

hundreds have been the victims of such killings.

And rising armed opposition in countries such as Egypt and Algeria has in turn coincided with dramatic increases in killings by government forces.

"Bringing an end to political killings and 'disappearances' demands concerted and effective international action, but the member governments of the United Nations remain painfully inconsistent and selective in their response to human rights crises," said Amnesty International.

The organisation is stepping up its call on the U.N. to appoint a High Commissioner for Human Rights with the authority to take urgent action, for increased resources to the

U.N.'s human rights programme and for the establishment of an impartial, independent international court.

Amnesty International is also calling on all governments to implement its 14-point programme for preventing "disappearances" and political killings.

"The world must wake up to the continuing mass slaughter," said the organisation. "Unless both individual governments and the international community take action soon to end political killings and 'disappearances', the rising tide of carnage could overwhelm the institutions set up to protect international human rights after the horrors of World War II."

LETTERS

Vacant position

To the Editor:

In his column "Norman, Oliver, Michael, Ella and 200 million dancing Americans" (Jordan Times, Oct. 19, 1993), Rami Khouri states, among others, that the central defining attribute of American culture is "individualistic consumerism."

Societies such as the United States represent a model of economic efficiency and productivity, (nurtured by a tolerant, democratic environment) responsive to consumer sovereignty, that enormous economic power exercised by the preferences of consumers in a free market economy. The result is increased competition which leads to research and new technology, resulting in ever better products, processes and services and a higher standard of living for the society. Quite simply put, it is a system that works, for most of its citizens, most of the time.

I suggest that if there is one central, defining attribute of American culture, it is quite possibly their time-honoured tradition of embracing the work ethic, the belief that productive physical or mental labour is a prime virtue. To portray Americans as little more than culturally bankrupt and rabid consumers is a gross inaccuracy that reveals the writer's distorted perceptions of a highly complex, culturally diverse and humane society. The writer would do well to refrain from claiming the cultural moral high ground. That position is vacant.

His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly called on journalists in Jordan to adopt a high standard of professionalism. Fundamental prerequisites for professional journalism are accurate information about a subject and the intent to convey that information to the reading public. Without these essential components the integrity of the media is compromised.

Cheryl Sukhtian,
P.O. Box 69,
Amman, 11591.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Snippets and tidbits from election '93

Some do not wait to grow up to shape their future

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.

DESPITE THE fact that Jordanians can only vote when they turn 19, the

new generation is not leaving decisions that affect their future to the whims of the "mature" among us. Jordanian children issued an appeal to candidates running for the Nov. 8 elections urging them to consider children's affairs in Jordan and address these issues seriously under the dome of Parliament. In fact, the children already noted that the candidates' slogans have so far failed to mention this large sector

of society. And if one thinks that the children do not know what they want, then listen to their demands: They called on the candidates to include human and children's rights in school and university curricula and urged the future Parliament to take into consideration the principles of the United Nations Convention on Children's Rights. These principles, the children say, should be reflected in the Jordanian laws and

regulations concerning children. And if the question is who are those forward-thinking children, we can tell you they are a group of youngsters who have affiliated to Amnesty International Children's Affairs Unit. And it is not a hoax, because the picture of a child reading a candidate's election campaign promises serves as evidence.

ONE OF the favourite candidates running for a seat in Maan Governorate had a letter of support that appeared as an advertisement in the local press. So far, this is common news.

The supporters pledged their confidence and loyalty, as well as their support for the nominee as a candidate of national unity, just as many others before them had done.

The new element is that the ad was signed by the sons of a Fuad Khalil Ismail Yassin, all 14 of them in fact. With families this big, who needs tribes? Especially that probably, in keeping with tradition, Mr. Yassin did not mention his daughters.



Hammad Abu Jamous

IT COST candidate Hammad Abu Jamous, Amman's First District, a 12 centimetres by two columns advertisement in the local press to apologise to his visitors for not being able to receive them at his campaign headquarters because of his "extensive programme of visits and interviews with members of the one Jordanian family." He said that he would be pleased to meet them "every day at our campaign centre in Marka...". and urged his supporters to collect their voter cards, warning them that "he who doesn't vote for the candidate of his own choice, helps a candidate he does not like."

Pretty logical, no doubt. Perhaps he could have spared the expense.

ABDUL RAHMAN QATARNEH, a candidate for the Fourth District in Amman, who until a month ago worked for the Royal Scientific Society, declares that he is against "surrender, normalisation with the Zionist entity, the establishment of corruption, forces of tyranny, programmes of starvation, the criminal siege of Iraq and injustice inflicted on south and east Amman."

Mr. Qatarneh, who is a member of the Society of Combatting Zionism and Racism, headed by former Deputy Laith Shbeilat claims that a leading semi-government newspaper that carried his manifesto a number of times before, changed its mind on Sunday and dropped it for being "highly charged."

Of course no one can verify whether it was for political reasons or because of space considerations, and it is not our job to check.

NERMEEN MURAD

Haiti's fragile democratic basis torn up since 1991

By David Beard
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Nearly every thread that could sustain a democracy has been cut in the two years since the military overthrow elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The U.S.-led military buildup off Haiti's shores and the harsh enforcement of international sanctions may just force Mr. Aristide's return from exile, although probably not by the United Nations' Oct. 30 deadline.

But establishing democracy is another matter, as is peace. Since the September 1991 coup, the military has broken up the neighbourhood organisations and peasant groups that formed the backbone of Mr. Aristide's overwhelming triumph. On his return, he'll have to build a new base.

Unions have died with the closure of most of Haiti's assembly plants. The network of Catholic churches has been stifled, with priests and parishioners alike viewed with suspicion.

Human rights groups have estimated that at least 1,500 people have been killed since the coup, and 300,000 people have gone into hiding. Thousands have fled the country.

"I don't dare go to pray for my country. If I do, thugs will break up the mass and think I am praying for Aristide," said Agnes, a 28-year-old housekeeper. She only gave her first name for fear of retribution by army-backed thugs.

Political parties have either been repressed or forced at gunpoint to go along with the military. They then try to justify their actions, creating internal dissension.

Human rights organisations suffer the same split. The leader of one went into hiding after an assassination attempt Oct. 4 while a colleague became, briefly, the prime minister of a previous, military-backed government.

Most radio stations have stopped giving news, and relay stations broadcasting radio signals to the countryside have been silenced.

Education has been disrupted. Students have only had one uninterrupted school year since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986. About two-thirds of the nation cannot read.

Efforts to repair roads, communications links and the economy have been halted. Power is often out for months at a time in the countryside.

A series of economic sanctions, imposed on Haiti to force the military to quit power, have deepened the suffering.

Farming of such crops as mangoes and coffee has declined.

Medical officials said 10,000 Haitians have died since the ouster, many from severe malnutrition or preventable diseases. More than 850,000 of Haiti's 6.5 million people depend on their daily meals from international aid groups.

As the diplomatic endgame plays out, the army's determination to stay has hardened. The international community has responded with warships, hundreds of U.S. marines in training exercises and an embargo that may shut down all commerce.

The stoppage of all gas deliveries from in-country storage depots is a dramatic reflection of the rising stakes. The telephone company warned Saturday that the sudden fuel shortage may force it to shut down all long-distance phone service.

"As long as the thugs with the guns set the agenda, this country will never know peace. That's what this fight is all about," U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger told reporters Saturday.

People who have been in Haiti for years, and remember the Sunday promenades along streets now blocked by uncollected garbage, wonder what will be left when the fight is over.

"Every day you see this nation being ripped asunder. And I don't see anybody on the scene who can sew it back together," said Chris Conrad, who runs operations here for the American aid organisation Care.

Coalition files civil rights lawsuit against anti-defamation league and police

American-Arab-Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) President Albert Mokhiber issued a statement upon the filing of civil rights litigation against the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith and California law enforcement officials. Other plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the National Association of Arab-Americans, Association of Arab-American University Graduates, Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network, National Lawyers Guild, Coalition Against Police Abuse, National Conference of Black Lawyers, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Global Exchange, International Jewish Peace Union, American Indian Movement, and the Palestine Solidarity Committee. The individual plaintiffs include former U.S. Congressman Mervyn Dymally, former Los Angeles City Councilman Robert Farrell, Dr. Gerald Horne, Professor of Black Studies at the University of California, Khader Musa Hamideh, and Michel Ibrahim Shehadeh, Palestinians facing deportation in Los Angeles, and Barbara T. Racy and Refaat Farid Halabi, supporters of human rights for Palestinians and peace in the Middle East.

Following is the full text of the statement provided to the Jordan Times by the ADC office in Amman:

"Today, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) joins eleven other civil rights and social justice organisations, and seven individuals in filing a civil rights and privacy rights lawsuit against the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and law enforcement agencies in California. This is an unusual lawsuit: an organisation that has done important civil rights work is being charged with violating civil rights. Then again, our action is precipitated by unusual events.

Boycott of Israel linked to conflict

(Continued from page 1)

truly national Palestinian economy which follows its national course.

Referring to Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the Crown Prince said that political differences in views between Jordan and the PLO over the past 20 years had had no negative impact on the economic relationship binding the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip with Jordan.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Saeed Najjar, head of Al Nidaa Al Jadid society in Egypt, presented a working paper tackling the economics of peace. The paper put forth proposals about regional cooperation involving Israel and the Arab World.

suit: an organisation that has done important civil rights work is being charged with violating civil rights. Then again, our action is precipitated by unusual events.

Like the rest of the civil rights community, ADC was shocked by revelations from the San Francisco District Attorney's Office of a nationwide spy operation directed, and financed by the ADL. Employing operatives with code names including "Flipper," "Hot Spurs" and "Scumbag," ADL raided the trash of the people on whom it spied, infiltrated meetings and even obtained from the police confidential law enforcement information the dissemination of which is proscribed by law. The operation even included an attempt to hide ADL as the source of financing for the spy operation: the ADL salary to a key ADL spy, Roy Bullock, was not paid directly, but was

channelled through a tax attorney in Los Angeles.

Arab-Americans were a major target of these activities. But we were not the only target. Other targets included the anti-apartheid movement. An ADL operative, together with a San Francisco police officer, Tom Gerard, sold to the government of South Africa information about the anti-apartheid movement in the United States. That put in danger the lives of Americans who would travel to South Africa.

Another target was the African-American community. Computer records seized from ADL's Roy Bullock, and other records indicate that among the organisations upon which files were maintained were the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NAACP), Black Men United for Change and three individual plaintiffs in this action, former Congressman Mervyn Dymally Profes-

sor of Black Studies Gerald Horne, and former L.A. City Councilman Robert Farrell.

Central-American groups were also targeted. It is no small coincidence that one of the police officers who is accused of working with the ADL to violate the civil rights of the plaintiffs, Tom Gerard, is a former CIA agent in Central America. He is now a defendant in this lawsuit.

This litigation is not about the Arab-Israeli conflict; it is about civil rights and privacy rights. It is an effort to curtail the so-called "privatisation" of intelligence gathering by law enforcement agencies. In our democratic society, law enforcement officials cannot use private persons and organisations, to whom they provide confidential government information, to infiltrate organisations and spy on individuals in a manner which, if done by a law enforcement

official, would violate provisions of the federal Bill of Rights and of state law. Conversely, a private organisation should not be able to obtain from law enforcement officials personal and confidential government information to use to further its own agenda.

ADL has attempted to defend this kind of spying as necessary for the fight against anti-semitism. This explanation holds no water: the

targeted groups include hundreds of progressive organisations, as do the targeted individuals. Most telling is ADL's steadfast refusal to release the information it has amassed on 500 organisations and 10,000 individuals.

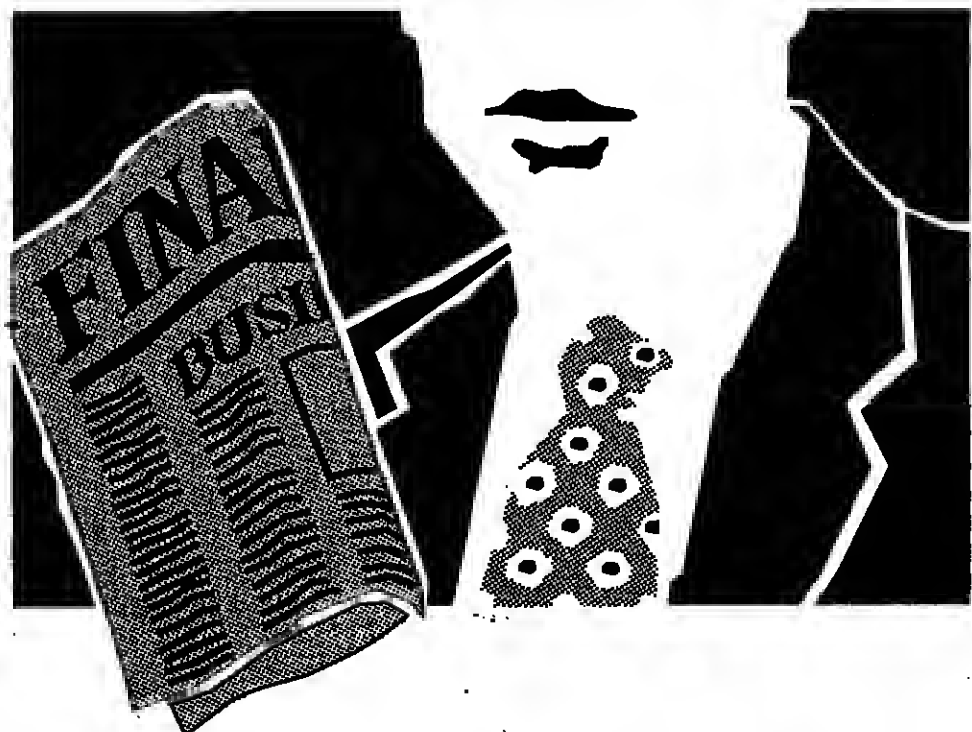
Ladies and gentlemen, we are not here to put the ADL out of business. We are here to put the ADL back into the business of protecting civil rights, not violating them."



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'Asia is where the action is'

MANILA (AFP) — Asia-Pacific developing economies are expected to enjoy an average seven per cent annual growth rate through 1995, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has said.

This is despite a slowdown in China and problems related to overheating economies, such as infrastructure improvement and environmental concerns.

"Asia is where the action is," said ADB assistant chief economist Malcolm Dowling said.

But he estimated annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the world as a whole at less than two per cent over the next three years.

"The world is not doing very well," he said.

ADB officials were hosting a seminar here on regional growth prospects, including Asia officials and experts, as well as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

At a news conference after the seminar, ADB officials proclaimed that prospects for the world's most dynamic region remained bright over the medium term.

But Mr. Dowling cautioned that poverty "remains the most pressing issue in developing

Asia," and that despite the region's dramatic growth since the 1970s the number of poor Asians — estimated at about 800 million people — shows that "the war against poverty in Asia is far from over."

Mr. Dowling also said that some Asian countries are now being choked by infrastructure bottlenecks, such as water and power shortages and growing urban decay, adding that "increasing environmental concerns in several countries may limit development choices."

The ADB forecasts China's growth rate for 1993 at 13 per cent, but because of overheating and corrective measures, this should slow down to 10 per cent next year and nine per cent in 1995, still well above the regional average.

Mr. Dowling said that unlike 1989, when the Chinese economy suddenly dipped after a period of overheated growth, he expected a "soft landing" this time for Peking.

ADB Vice President William Thomson said that China acts like "a locomotive for the region" and its slower growth would affect the rest of Asia.

Mr. Dowling said that Hong Kong, in particular, would be

affected by China's growth rate.

Among the other newly industrialising economies (NIES), Mr. Dowling said "strong growth in the range of seven to eight per cent is feasible" for Singapore, as it invests heavily in "technology-intensive electronics."

In South Korea, growth is expected to slump in 1993 for the second year in a row because of high wages, anemic investment and sluggish exports, but a recovery is expected in 1994, following restructuring.

Mr. Dowling forecast 6-6.5 per cent for Seoul by 1995.

In Taiwan, Mr. Dowling said the scaling down of the government's ambitious development plan and slow export growth restrained overall growth this year, while rapid increases in investments in China would dampen domestic capital formation.

He forecast Taiwan growth at six to 6.5 per cent over the next two years.

In South East Asia, Mr. Dowling said favourable external and internal conditions will push growth in the next two years, with the subregion seeing 7.3 per cent average growth by 1995.

Thailand will lead the rest of the region, with growth of about eight per cent in the next two years because of a more stable political climate combined with buoyant domestic demand, along with rising foreign investments.

Malaysia, which has shown the way the past two years, will slow down a bit because of infrastructure bottlenecks, while the region's laggard, the Philippines, will post 3.5 per cent growth next year and five per cent in 1995.

Economic growth in south Asia will continue to be constrained by difficult fiscal and balance-of-payment conditions, along with a weak infrastructure base, Mr. Dowling said.

But if political stability and normal weather conditions are sustained, economic growth is forecast to increase slightly to an average of 4.2 per cent in the subregion through 1995.

He cited the prospects of India, which has undertaken major structural reforms, and said that with China's galloping growth slowing down, India, along with Indonesia, could turn into new "growth nodes" for Asia.

Arab Gulf states earn less from fertilizer exports

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A decline in fertilizer prices has hit revenues of Gulf Arab states, already suffering from a sharp drop in oil income, according to an official Gulf report.

The Saudi-based Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (APICORP) blamed new farm policies in Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union for the weak demand for fertilizers, a key income source for the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

And it said demand in the key markets of China and India was dropping.

In its annual report, it said low demand has pushed down prices of ammonia to \$105 per tonne in the first nine months of 1993 compared with around \$140 in 1992. Prices of urea

also fell by eight per cent from \$150 in 1991.

"The past few years have seen unprecedented stagnation in demand for chemical fertilizers due to a sharp decline in consumption in former Soviet Union and East Europe and policies by European countries, which are seeking to reduce their farm surplus," the report said.

"The decline has forced the closure of four fertilizer plants in West Europe with a production capacity of 1.25 million tonnes a year. In the Arab region, our information indicates that fertilizers plants suffered from the decline in prices but have managed to keep the loss to the minimum," the report added.

The bulk of GCC fertilizer

production is exported as consumption has remained relatively low given the limited agricultural sector. The biggest consumers of GCC fertilizers are China, India and other Asian countries.

The GCC groups together Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

APICORP drew a gloomy picture about the future of Asian fertilizer markets.

"Some countries are under pressure within the General Agreement for Tariffs and Trade to cut subsidies for farmers and fertilizers to free trade as a prelude to cancelling such subsidies," it said. "India has already followed that trend while China is believed it will follow suit."

Oman seeks backers for \$700m plant

MUSCAT (R) — Oman has completed feasibility studies for a \$700 million petrochemicals complex and is seeking investors, a minister has said.

Omani minister of commerce and industry Nakhoul Bin Ali Bin Sultan told Al Watan newspaper that Neste Chemicals of Finland had performed the study and would invest in the project.

Mr. Sultan added that several foreign investors had shown interest.

According to Omani laws, foreign partners may hold up to a 65 per cent share in the project.

Muscat, banking on recent natural gas finds, wants a plant with an estimated annual output of 300,000 tonnes of polypropylene and polyethylene.

Russian finance minister sees more hardship ahead

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Russians will suffer more economic hardship next year, but the government will move ahead with market reforms, Russia's finance minister said Sunday.

"1994 is a crucial year when economic difficulties will be increasing and at the same time real reforms will go forward," Boris Fyodorov said at the end of a three-day routine visit to meet Finnish leaders.

Mr. Fyodorov predicted that 10 million Russians, or 6.7 per cent, will be jobless next year, and that inflation would drop to a monthly average of 15 to 20 per cent, and as low as two or three per cent by the end of the year.

Inflation has been running at about 25 per cent.

New reforms will give outlying regions more economic independence, including the right to tax citizens and design their own budgets, Mr. Fyodorov said.

Also, President Boris Yeltsin will issue a decree allowing the buying and selling of land by the end of the year.

"(It) is probably one of the most important decisions for several years, and parliament was always blocking it," Mr. Fyodorov said. "It cannot be delayed anymore."

Mr. Fyodorov said the dissolution of parliament after the violent showdown between Mr. Yeltsin and the legislature three weeks ago has made some reforms easier to implement.

He admitted that most people remained very poor.

"One of the biggest targets any government in Russia should have is to create a real middle class, those who will be the mainstay of a democratic market economy," Mr. Fyodorov said.

Meanwhile, Alexander Pochinok, deputy finance minister, told the daily military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda that the government would keep a tight rein on spending next year.

Mr. Pochinok said military expenditures were slated to be six trillion roubles — about \$5 billion at the current exchange rate.

This year, defence spending was 2.7 trillion roubles, 13 per cent of the total budget. But the new figure doesn't represent an increase because of runaway inflation, which averages 20 per cent a month.

"I realise we are still cutting to the quick, but we can no longer afford the expenditures we had before," Mr. Pochinok said.

U.N. study finds poverty eroding in Mexico as a result of market reforms

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Four years of free-market reforms in Mexico have helped lift more than one million Mexicans out of abject poverty, a U.N.-sponsored study found.

The drop in the poverty rate — reversing a year-long trend — comes as the U.S. Congress debates whether Mexico's living standards are rising sufficiently to join in a free-trade partnership under NAFTA.

The study was conducted jointly by the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Mexican government.

It found 13.6 million Mexicans lived in "extreme poverty" in 1992, about 16.2 per cent of the population. That's an 8.7 per cent drop from 1989's total of 14.9 million people, or 18.9 per cent of the population.

The decline came even as Mexico's population grew from 79 million to 84 million. Between 1984 and 1989, the poorest segment of the popula-

tion grew by 6.3 per cent annually, said Pedro Sainz, director of the study.

"Extreme poverty" was defined as when a person doesn't earn enough to buy a select market basket of basic goods.

"More Mexicans than ever have improved the ability to feed themselves and meet the basic necessities for their well-being," the study concluded.

By comparison, the U.S. Census Bureau said there were 36.9 million poor Americans last year, accounting for 14.5 per cent of the population. That was up 1.2 million from 1991 and the highest poverty rate since 1983.

The 1992 U.S. poverty line for a family of four was \$14,335. For someone living alone, it was \$7,143.

Carlos Jarque, head of the Mexican government's National Statistics Institute, called the results extremely encouraging for the country's war on poverty.

President Carlos Salinas de

Gortari has sold off more than 900 inefficient state enterprises since taking office in 1988 and tamped inflation from 51.7 per cent that year to near a single digit this far this year.

He has ambitiously vowed to lift Mexico into ranks of the developed world through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which would link his country with Canada and the United States in a bloc of 362 million consumers.

Some NAFTA critics in Washington have warned that linking the United States with a still-developing nation in a major trade pact could result in as many as 500,000 American jobs going to Mexico's large supply of cheap labour.

Mr. Salinas told a group of visiting U.S. congressmen Saturday that Mexico is raising the country's minimum wage of about \$4.50 a day nearly 10 per cent while seeking higher living standards.

The Institute for International Economics estimated in a study that Mexico will gain 600,000 new short-term jobs under NAFTA and the United States about 175,000 new jobs by 1995 as a result of expanded exports to Mexico.

Representative John Spratt told Mexican reporters he wanted to see conditions improve in Mexico. But, he added, "we also want to make certain that we do not lower our standard of living in the United States in order to raise standards of living in Mexico."

A House vote in an expected tough ratification fight is set for Nov. 17.

Mexican Trade Minister Jaime Serra Puche recently answered criticism that Mexico's economic opening has caused hardship for many, saying that all will soon share the fruits of liberalisation.

"Naturally it will have an effect on income distribution, but it will create new jobs," Mr. Serra Puche said.

Market economy blamed for resurgence of vice in former Saigon

HO CHI MINH CITY (AFP) — Prostitution and drug abuse have multiplied here in the last decade because of the country's economic liberalisation, the Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said Monday.

The agency said this southern city, called Saigon until 1975, is home to an estimated 50,000 prostitutes and 30,000 drug users, and blamed the numbers on a move towards a market economy.

"With the shift to a market-oriented economy, social evils have increased alongside economic growth," VNA said, adding that the number of prostitutes was five times the figure in 1985.

"Many hotels, even ones run by the state, allow this activity to go on as a matter of course," it said.

So far this year, Ho Chi Minh City police have shut down 200 brothels and de-

tained 1,000 prostitutes, the agency said.

At least 78 opium dens have been raided, with 323 drug pushers arrested and 153 kilograms of opium and 8.1 kilograms of heroin confiscated.

VNA also reported Monday that Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has ordered a crackdown on smuggling and set up a special committee to tackle it.

The communist government, trying to build a market economy, has pinpointed smuggling and corruption as two major drains, with smuggling depriving local manufacturers of sales worth an estimated \$20 million a year and causing incalculable taxation losses.

But apart from a handful of high-profile trials of officials for corruption, action appears to have been limited.

Porous land borders with

Cambodia, Laos and China, and a long, little-policed coastline are ideal for smuggling to feed an increasingly prosperous population of 70 million Vietnamese.

A Ho Chi Minh City newspaper reported recently that 18,500 cases of smuggling had been detected in southern provinces during the first half of this year and this was reckoned to be only one-tenth of the real number. Sixty-one cases were

prosecuted.

VNA said Mr. Kiet told officials at a recent meeting that customs, taxation, police and border authorities had to coordinate closely to prevent foreign goods being illegally imported.

The new committee's job would be to discover, control and settle smuggling cases according to the law and work out new regulations to combat it.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris

"It's a telephone psychic. I asked her about romance, now she can't stop snickering!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEECA
SYNAP
INLOOT
LUBOSE

TAKE IN HAND FOR A BATH!

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAMA SAUTE DEFACE HUMBLE
Answer: He said this was the acting game — CHARADES

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 26, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An excellent day as the Moon trines Mars, Mercury and Pluto bringing you an entirely different and better outlook on life. Go to new places with new friends and look into modern methods and conditions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider what you can do to arrange your business and personal affairs so they are in better shape where money is concerned and don't get into new enterprises.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think about what you can do to put your talents across early for later some questions of a business nature arise that keep you very preoccupied.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get into private problems with a member of your family and don't let the actions of an outside associate put you into a questioning frame of mind.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look for the various and sundry messages that require your exacting attention and get at them early as later you are not in the mood for them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A good day to get in sums due and owing you so be at creditors and debtors early after which you find pleasures you had anticipated hard to materialize.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You early see what you can do to improve and to increase your personal wellbeing so lose no time about it for later home conditions become imperative.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have the chance to make headway with a confidential plan to force ahead where a private plan of action exists but don't seek help from an ally.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A very particular friend had the answer you need to gain a desired aim so consult with this person and later keep your purse strings zipped.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over the various public needs you have to do something about and get them in back; you but later don't try to push to gain your aims.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get into the specifics required by you of a new course of action and get as much knowledge as possible, then avoid fusing over what you can't help.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into whatever promises you have made and get them in back of you by your own conscientiousness, then avoid limiting old friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Talk out and over your wishes with a critical partner and you can convince early in the day but later an old problem can arise to harass you both.

SPRINGING FOR OCTOBER
OPAZ CORNELIAN
D
Anna Hays
Van Cirk

THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson

ACROSS
1 Carry lightly through air
5 Raise trivial objections
10 Ritalin
14 Jell—
15 Too fast
16 Cleveland's waterfront
17 Incline
18 Vulnerable
20 Brief passage
22 Sweep
23 Suggestive look
24 Loot
26 Medical term
28 Pronominal
29 Stretched
33 Height: abbr.
34 Caught
37 Kansas senator
38 Part of MPH
39 Set out briskly
41 Painting
42 Ewac
44 One making an incursion
45 Before JFK
48 Pines
49 Social
50 Donkeys
51 Desert stopovers
53 Joseph Broz
54 Maximally
57 Spanish misters
60 Jumping insect
62 Walk back and forth
63 Horshes
65 Mexican dollar
67 Winter vehicle
68 Inclined
69 Lots

DOWN
1 "Star"
2 Author Maine
3 Geological chart
4 Relative of a scart
5 Dows, at times
6 Border
7 Old-timer, for short
8 Equat. pref.
9 Musical direction
10 Put off
11 Uninteresting
12 Coating of ice particles
13 Bible
19 S.A. word
21 Mexican laborers
24 Intimidating persons
25 New York Indian
26 Northern natives
27 Warm
28 Roman pronator
30 Herb with heart-shaped leaves
31 Omk
32 Relative of a vowel
33 Dows, at times
35 Swiss river
36 Poor grade

40 Draw off, gradually
43 Made fun of
47 Ob
50 Bonds
52 A dance
53 Cones
54 Mountains
55 River duck
56 Aromatic spice
57 Observed
58 Scotch
59 Like a trail
61 Golf term
62 Money player

Sinn Fein holds out prospect of IRA truce after bomb attack

BELFAST (R) — The leader of the IRA's political wing, battling to save his tattered peace initiative after a botched IRA bomb attack, said Monday he would ask guerrillas to lay down their arms if Britain accepted his proposals.

"If the British government take on board what is put to them, I believe the IRA would positively respond," Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said after the weekend bomb blast that killed 10 people in the Protestant heartland of Belfast.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, was gravely embarrassed by the political damage done to its cause and apologised for Saturday's bomb in Belfast, which was aimed at Protestant extremists meeting in a room above a fishmonger's shop.

It went off prematurely, killing nine shoppers and a guerrilla planting the device. The explosion was the organisation's most serious mistake since the death of 11 Protestants in a war memorial massacre in the border town of Enniskillen in 1987.

But it insisted the botched attack "was not a mad dog operation to discredit peace talks," nationalist sources close to the guerrilla group's leadership said.

"It was not aimed at wrecking the talks but we accept it was a major blow for Republican peace negotiations," one source said.

"The IRA will be holding its own inquiry into not only what went wrong on the spot but the planning stages too. Those who sanctioned it will be called to account," the source added.

Moderate Irish nationalist

John Hume held five months of secret talks with Mr. Adams which both considered to be the best chance of peace for Northern Ireland in 25 years of conflict.

No details of the negotiations have been published but the Irish government, briefed by Mr. Hume, had been optimistic about their chances.

Mr. Adams, raising the prospect of a ceasefire even though his credibility may have been shattered by the IRA's mistake, said of his proposals: "If the British government responded to those positively, I would be quite pleased to go to the IRA and make that proposal."

Mr. Adams had condemned Saturday's bomb attack in forceful terms, calling it wrong, inexcusable and a disaster.

Pressed by BBC Radio on whether he had enough influence with the guerrilla group to deliver a ceasefire, he said: "I think that is where we would get a real understanding of what my influence would do."

"I am quite prepared to go to the IRA with a mind to make proposals about how they conduct their campaign. Obviously I want that to be a worthwhile prospect."

"I don't want to be going back and forth making meaningless statements."

"I would be very disappointed if they (the British government) did not know what was required here."

The London and Dublin governments were quick to condemn the Belfast carnage and distance themselves from the Hume-Adams dialogue.

Mr. Hume's deputy Seamus

Mallon said: "The talks must go as there is no alternative."

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew cancelled a planned Wednesday meeting out of respect for the victims.

British Prime Minister John Major will meet his Irish counterpart Albert Reynolds at a European Community summit in Brussels Friday but there is now little chance of any advance on the peace front.

The Ulster Freedom Fighters, an outlawed group fighting to keep Northern Ireland British, have vowed that Irish nationalists will "pay a very heavy price" for the bungled IRA attack that left Belfast's Shaill Road numb with grief.

Up to 40,000 commuters trying to get to work faced rail chaos Monday after IRA guerrillas blew up the main link between western England and London.

British Rail suspended services after the IRA exploded a bomb Sunday night on the line running through the town of Reading, a day after the botched bomb attack in Belfast.

"We're making the track safe first, then there will be a forensic search," police Chief Superintendent Anthony Howlett-Bolton said Monday.

"Then the line will be opened."

Police said the IRA gave them an hour's warning before the explosion.

A bigger bomb found in toilets at Reading station, an important junction, was made safe Sunday night by the army bomb squad and another device was defused at nearby

Basingstoke.

There were no casualties but Reading and Basingstoke stations were both closed Monday. Misleading warnings about bombs at other stations Sunday night caused other closures and disruption to the rail network.

British Rail warned of "severe delays" Monday and asked commuters to report suspicious packages.

The attacks appeared to be part of the tactics adopted by the IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, to Britain's economy and gain publicity.

There were serious delays Monday for commuters using London's Waterloo Terminal Station.

"We're doing our best to look after the 40,000 people due to use these services," said Roger McDonald of British Rail, explaining hastily-imposed alternative arrangements which included bus shuttle services.

"I'm optimistic we will start to get back to normal this morning," he said.

Motoring organisations reported that the rail disruption caused heavy traffic on main highways into the British capital.

This has been the most intense year of IRA activity in mainland Britain since 1974 when targets included pubs and an army coach.

One of the biggest blasts was caused by a stolen truck packed with explosives which went off in London's financial district in April, killing a photographer, injuring dozens of people and causing millions of pounds' worth of damage.



Georgian government troops reloaded their guns during a battle near the western town of Samtredia (AFP photo)

Georgian troops recapture Poti

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian troops recaptured the strategic Black Sea port of Poti Monday from supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia and pressed on with an offensive toward the rebels' main stronghold in western Georgia, officials said.

Meanwhile the commander of Russian troops in Tbilisi said a collective security agreement between Georgia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had been finalised, opening the way for Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani troops to help guard vital supply lines through Georgia.

A spokesman for Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze said troops loyal to Mr. Gamsakhurdia fled Poti as government troops advanced, reaching the outskirts of the port city Sunday.

The city, captured by the rebels on Oct. 2, serves as one of the main supply routes to central Georgia and neighbouring Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Officials said the government forces were also continuing their offensive in the Mingrelia region, the home region and main base of support for Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who is reportedly in the regional

capital, Zugdidi. Officials said Georgian troops were fighting Monday to capture the town of Senaki, the fall of which would give them easy access to Zugdidi.

The CIS defence pact would provide a significant boost for Mr. Shevardnadze, although officials at the Russian Defence Ministry in Moscow said earlier in the day that Georgia had not met all the conditions necessary for implementing the agreement.

Mr. Shevardnadze published a decree Saturday saying that Georgia had joined the CIS, which groups most of the former Soviet republics and includes a defence pact under which members can intervene on behalf of fellow CIS states in the event of an attack by a third party.

Up to 80 per cent of Georgians are said to be in favour of the CIS membership.

The Russian military commander in Tbilisi said that according to the collective agreement, Armenian troops would be deployed to protect railway lines between Poti and Kutaisi, Georgia's second city and an important railway junction to Armenia.

Russia troops, for their part, would be deployed along a

250-kilometre (155-mile) stretch between Kutaisi and Tbilisi and Azerbaijani troops would oversee the route between Tbilisi and the Azerbaijani border to the east, he said.

The military assistance and the recapture of Poti represent a significant boost to Georgian troops who in recent days have managed to reclaim several towns following a string of defeats to the rebels.

Mr. Shevardnadze Sunday issued an ultimatum to the rebels during his weekly address on national radio, telling them to lay down their weapons or face annihilation.

He told the rebels that they would be granted amnesty if they surrendered but that Mr. Gamsakhurdia and his close aides would not be given the same treatment.

"The rebel forces being led by Gamsakhurdia will be defeated in coming days," Mr. Shevardnadze said. "He and his admirers are today the worst enemies of Georgia."

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, Georgia's first and only democratically elected president, was ousted in January 1992 but in September began a military push to try and reclaim power as Mr. Shevardnadze was trying to quash a rebellion by secessionists in Abkhazia.

Michael Jackson arrives in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson arrived in Mexico City Sunday, three days ahead of schedule after cancelling concerts in Chile and Peru, airport authorities said. Jackson is scheduled to perform in four concerts in Mexico City between Oct. 19 and Nov. 4 as part of his Dangerous world tour which included previous stops in Asia. "He arrived between 5:30 p.m. (2330 GMT) and 6:00 p.m. (midnight GMT)," said Guillermina Zuniga, a spokeswoman for the Benito Juarez International Airport in Mexico City. Jackson, whose megahits include Thriller and Billie Jean, postponed performances in Asia and missed two in Chile and Peru during the tour that was marred by allegations of child abuse in California.

Ramos' daughter weds TV director

MANILA (R) — The pop singer daughter of President Fidel Ramos married a Filipino television director Sunday in a garden ceremony at the presidential palace. Soldiers stood guard round the palace to keep out the media and ensure that only invited guests were allowed inside. "We don't like our wedding to be a circus. This is a very private affair," presidential Press Secretary Jesus Sison quoted the bride, 37-year-old Josephine "Jo" Ramos, as saying of her marriage to ex-film actor Lloyd Samartino, 31. "My gift is to pick up the bill," President Ramos told reporters Saturday. He had five children, all girls.

Berlin receives Dietrich memorabilia

BERLIN (AFP) — A collection of Marlene Dietrich memorabilia, around 100,000 items destined to take their place in a museum in her honour, was handed over Sunday to the City of Berlin by her daughter Maria Riva. Berlin bought the collection for \$5 million at auction in New York on Sept. 14. It will go to the German Cinematic Foundation, which will sort and catalogue the collection before putting it on display in 1998. Part of the collection will be shown in 1995 as part of an exhibition marking 100 years of cinema. At a handing over ceremony Sunday, Ms. Riva said: "A museum for a movie star? My mother would have said they were crazy, but underneath it all, she would have been very proud." Dietrich died in May last year at the age of 90. She was buried next to her mother in her native Berlin, which she fled after Hitler came to power in 1933. Many Germans of the older generation still accuse her of betraying her country, especially as she sang for American troops during World War II.

Child who thought he could fly, survives fall

NEW YORK (R) — A 5-year-old boy whose mother said he thought he could fly survived a six-storey fall with only bruises, newspapers reported Monday. Paul Rosen, whose mother Christine called him "a strong, brave child who thought he could fly," fell 70 feet (21 metres) onto concrete but suffered no serious injuries, the New York Post and the Daily News said, quoting doctors. His mother did not elaborate. "It was like the angels caught him," the news quoted a paramedic as saying. "It saved the child 'apparently landed on his rear end.'" The Post quoted a hospital source as saying the boy was playing Superhero and had jumped. But the news quoted a policeman saying the boy had apparently just reached for a dangling toy and fallen from a Manhattan apartment window, which did not have city-mandated guard rails to prevent such accidents.

Fangs for the memories...

PEKING (R) — A slip of the chopsticks 25 years ago launched Jin Changfu's musical career — playing 20 famous Chinese tunes by hitting his teeth. The 39-year-old paper salesman from Changchun in northeast China got his dental inspiration at 14 "when his chopsticks happened to knock upon his teeth and produced a crisp 'dang' sound," the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. His toothy tunes now include I Love Tiananmen and The East Is Red, familiar to all Chinese — and soon to many in Singapore and South Korea, where he is planning a concert.

Massacres follow coup in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AFP) — Surviving members of Burundi's ousted government, holed up in the French embassy here, refused Monday to negotiate with Tutsi-led troops who they said killed the country's first Hutu president in a coup attempt last week.

Soldiers Monday discreetly hurried President Melchior Ndadaye and senior aides slain with him in last Thursday's putsch, sources close to the army said, but there was no official confirmation of the report.

Staff of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees meanwhile said that almost 250,000 people had fled into neighbouring Rwanda to escape ethnic bloodshed which followed the coup. Another 12,000 refugees were reported in Tanzania.

Refugees reported that the army had begun killing Hutus in several districts of Burundi and reports reaching the capital also spoke of Hutus rising up

to massacre their historical overlords in a latest bout of the ethnic bloodletting. Mr. Ndadaye had pledged to end.

A source close to the Ndadaye government said Monday that surviving cabinet ministers who sought refuge in the French embassy had turned down a call for an amnesty from the putschists, who offered in return to hand over the body of the president, elected in June.

The ministers did "not trust a rebel army" and feared that a demand for talks by the putschists, whose leadership remained unclear, was but a "trap" to lure them out of the embassy and "kill them too," the source said.

Some government officials said the plotters should be prosecuted and the army disbanded. Rwandan Radio has reported.

Several ministers called on the international community to deploy troops in Burundi to protect themselves and the

Hutu majority population at large from the mainly Tutsi army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Benoit Daradagane, a Defence Ministry official, late Sunday went on television to criticise the position of the government, of which some members have also called for international sanctions on Burundi.

"It's not foreign forces who can solve Burundi's problems," Col. Daradagane said, accusing the government of "refusing to resume office."

While Bujumbura was relatively calm Monday, fear prevailed and residents found it increasingly hard to buy provisions, since businesses and trade had almost completely ground to a halt since Thursday.

Sporadic clashes were reported from outlying Hutu-majority suburbs as Tutsis living there fell back towards the city centre, but the violence was not on the scale described in other parts of the country.

Ukraine to ratify START-1 but wants more cash

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian legislators pledged on Monday to ratify the START-1 nuclear disarmament treaty by the end of the year, but demanded far more compensation for giving up nuclear weapons than the United States has offered.

The deputies, speaking after two hours of talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said there was no question of approving for the moment other international accords requiring Kiev to give up the weapons for good.

"We will ratify START by the end of the year," Dmytro Pavlychko, head of parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission, told Reuters. "But there is so far no question of ratifying the Lisbon protocols and the non-proliferation treaty (NPT)."

Ukraine is the last of four former Soviet republics holding nuclear weapons to ratify START-1, after Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Russia is the only one of them due to retain any warheads left over from the Soviet era.

Under the terms of protocols signed in Lisbon last year, Ukraine is to give up 176 strategic missiles still on its territory. But President Leonid Kravchuk and other leaders have suggested it should retain some missiles for a time.

Mr. Christopher secured a pledge from Kazakhstan Sunday to join NPT as a non-nuclear state by the end of the year. His current trip will also take him to Belarus, which has approved both the strategic arms reduction treaty (START-1) and NPT.

The influential chairman of Ukraine's parliament, Ivan Plyushch, said Ukraine was seeking compensation of up to \$5 billion, far in excess of an initial U.S. offer of \$175 million to cover the costs of dismantling weaponry.

"Christopher said that Ukraine would have greater security if it rid itself of nuclear weapons. I told him there was no point in trying to convince him of this," he told reporters.

"Experts have estimated the proceeds from the sale of these warheads at between \$3.6 billion and \$5 billion. \$1 billion (in compensation) for each of the next five years will be sufficient."

Ukraine wants much of the money to pay for fuel to run the country's five nuclear power plants.

U.S. officials travelling with Mr. Christopher acknowledge that the nuclear republics stand to gain as much as \$12 billion from dismantling their warheads. One U.S. estimate puts the value of Ukraine's share of the weapons at \$1 billion to \$2 billion.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Raintrap wins French St Leger

PARIS (R) — Raintrap, owned by Khalid Abdullah and ridden by Pat Eddery, edged out English raiders Mashaallah and Sonus in a tight finish to the French St Leger Horse Racing Classic at Longchamp Sunday. Raintrap, never worse than second in five previous attempts this season, notched his fourth and biggest win of the campaign with a typically game victory which has become his hallmark. Eddery bided his time at the back of the field on the Andre Fabre-trained Raintrap, who successfully pounced inside the final furlong (200 metres) to win the 3.1 km test by a short neck and a nose. Another British runner, Assessor, started a warm favourite to emulate last year's success, but the Richard Hannon runner finished fifth and out of the money for the first time this season. Jockey John Reid reported: "I was nearly knocked out of the saddle five furlongs (1 km) out and I lost an iron as a result." The meeting was the last major one of the French season, highlighted three weeks ago by Urban Sea's victory in the Prix de Larc De Triomphe. Khalid Abdullah has had another excellent year in European classics thanks mainly to Zafonic and Commander in Chief, winner of the English 2,000 Guineas and Derby, although there have also been disappointments with two other top-rated colts in Tenby and Armiger.

West Brom to play Halifax

LONDON (AFP) — West Bromwich Albion, one of two first division sides who have to start in round one, travel to Halifax, relegated to the conference last year, in the first round of the FA Cup. Non-league Enfield play second division Cardiff. There was crowd trouble outside the Etihad ground when the two sides met in the second round in 1988, Cardiff winning 4-1. Marlow, who lost to Spurs at White Hart Lane last year, play Peter Shilton's Plymouth at home. Second division strugglers Fulham face a daunting task at Yeovil who have an ominous record of cup upsets under their belts. Yeovil Secretary Roger Brinsford said: "We played them back in the 1950s when Jimmy Hill was playing for them, and they beat us, so we them one."

Frenchmen get wild cards for Paris Open

PARIS (AP) — Henri Leconte and three other French players have received wild-card invitations for the \$2.1 million Paris Open, organisers announced Monday. Leconte, Olivier Delatre, Rodolphe Gilbert and Guillaume Raoux, were accepted into the 48-player field for the Nov. 1-7 event at the Bercy Sports Palace. Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras heads a field that includes 32 of the world's top 33 players. Andre Agassi, originally in the field as No. 23, withdrew with a wrist injury. Last year, Boris Becker won his third title in the seven years of the tournament. He went on to win the ATP World Championship. Other top players entered include Australian Open champion Jim Courier, now ranked No. 2 in the world behind Sampras, 1990 champion Stefan Edberg and French Open champion Sergi Bruguera.

Sampras wins Lyon tournament

LYON, France (AP) — Pete Sampras beat Frenchman Cedric Pioline 7-6 (7-5), 1-6, 7-5, to win the Lyon Tennis Tournament for the third consecutive time and take possession of a diamond-studded trophy. It was Sampras's 19th tournament victory and seventh this year, including Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. Pioline has yet to win in six tournament finals, including losses to Sampras at the U.S. Open and at Lyon twice. It was the third consecutive week Pioline advanced to a final and lost. Sampras had not played since he won the U.S. Open at the beginning of September. He now has 12 straight match victories.

Guinea reach African Nations Cup finals

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Guinea carved out a narrow victory over Burundi in neutral Gabon Sunday to take the final place in next year's African Nations Cup finals. Guinea beat the tiny East African nation 5-4 in a penalty shootout after the two teams had failed to score in their play-off match in Libreville, the Gabonese capital. The result means Guinea qualify for the Nations Cup finals, to be held in Tunisia next March, for the first time since 1980 and also makes up for their disappointment after being eliminated from the World Cup last month. Guinea join hosts Tunisia, holders Ivory Coast, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zaire and Zambia in the 12-team final tournament from March 25 to April 9.

Suns pick up where dream team left off

MUNICH (AP) — In case anybody forgot what the "dream team" proved in Barcelona, the Phoenix Suns reminded them in Munich the NBA's finest are in a different league than the rest of the world. Although the gap may be narrowing, the Suns' easy victories over two of Europe's top clubs showed there still is a long way to go before foreign teams can compete on equal terms with the NBA. The Suns routed Real Madrid on Sunday 145-115 Friday and beat Backler Bologna of Italy 112-90 Saturday to win the McDonald's Open, a six-team event pitting an NBA team against league champions from Europe and Brazil. The Suns extended the NBA's record to 12-0 in the six editions of the tournament. "An NBA team will lose sooner or later," Phoenix coach Paul Westphal said. The evidence points to later.

Jordan U-19 basketball matches continue today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's under-19 basketball competition continues Tuesday when three matches are scheduled to take place at Amman's Al Hussein Sports Palace and Irbid's Al Hassan Sports City.

Participating teams will have completed their contacts with Al Hassan Sports City officials to avoid any more put off citing a range of reasons.

Al Orthodoxi, who have so far maintained an unbeaten record, will meet Al Jazireh, an ambitious team vying to end Al Orthodoxi's and Al Ahli's domination of the country's basketball scene.

Al Jazireh who have this year clinched the boys under-14 and under-16 titles have so far lost one match 73-57 to titleholders Al Ahli. They easily overcame third division team Al Mafrag 142-21 (57-9), and second division team Al Abbasi 67-44 (31-25).

Al Abbasi who scored an 84-20 big win of their own over Al Mafrag, will be meeting Abu Nusair who have so far lost all their matches; 124-23 to Al Orthodoxi; 136-21 to Al Ahli; and a disappointing final minute 45-43 loss to Al Mafrag.

Al Abbasi will be seeking to advance their standing and challenge Al Hussein for a place in the second round of the championship in which the top four teams will be fighting for the title.

Al Hussein will play Al Mafrag in the third match of the day.

Standings

Team	P	W	L	PF	SA	Pts
Al Orthodoxi	3	3	—	265	84	6
Al Ahli	3	3	—	315	118	6
Al Jazireh	3	2	1	264	135	5
Al Abbasi	4	1	3	289	238	5
Al Mafrag	3	1	2	86	249	4
Abu Nusair	3	—	3	87	385	3
Al Hussein	1	—	1	17	75	1

Karpov moves closer to world chess title

JAKARTA (R) — Russia's Anatoly Karpov was only one point away from the world title after drawing with Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the 18th game of the World Chess Championship Monday.

A smiling Karpov left the playing hall knowing that he was on the verge of regaining the title he lost to compatriot Garry Kasparov in 1985.

Karpov, 42, now leads the 24 game match by 11.5 points to 6.5 needing 12.5 points to take the world title and the lion's share of the one million Swiss francs \$700,000 prize fund.

Contrary to expectations, Karpov did not have an easy task in drawing Monday's game.

Timman, playing with the disadvantage of the black pieces, tried desperately to unbalance an equal position but

Karpov defended precisely and Timman was eventually forced to concede a draw after 38 moves and five hours' play.

"Jan played well today," Karpov said. "He offered an interesting queen sacrifice which I could not accept and after that I had nothing. Maybe I should have tried a different 11th move."

Karpov and Timman are playing for the official world championship because Kasparov, the world number 1, and Nigel Short, his English challenger, broke away from the World Chess Federation to organise a more lucrative contest in London.

Kasparov, who won the London match last week, was stripped of his world title in pieces, tried desperately to unbalance an equal position but

the legitimate world champion.

Japan keep World Cup hopes alive with win against S. Korea

DOHA (Ageocias) —

Japanese soccer's most popular star Kazuyoshi Miura scored the game's only goal against South Korea Monday, keeping Japan's hopes alive to qualify for the World Cup finals 1994.

The defeat was South Korea's first in this six-nation Asian qualification tournament.

An estimated 1,000 Japanese fans, some with faces painted to resemble the rising sun, chanted "Miura, Miura," as the 26-year-old professional footballer scored the all-important goal in the 60th minute of the play.

The chant then turned to "Nippon, Nippon," for Japan. Japanese players hugged each other, as the South Koreans quietly walked away to the dressing room.

Japan now faces Iraq in their last match on Oct. 28 which will decide if Japan, winner of the eight-nation Asian Cup in 1992, will take of the two Asian slots for the 24-nation World Cup finals.

The defeat placed South Korea in the same bracket point with Iraq. Both have four points from four matches.

Japanese goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga foiled what could have been South Korea's first goal in the 5th minute of the game, when he threw himself in front of advancing Non Jung-Yoon and collected the ball.

Six minutes later it was the turn of the Japanese, but Masami Ihara's shot from inside the 6-metre penalty box hit the bar and rebounded. Ihara had got a perfect pass from the left flank by Masashi Nakayama.

Japan got as many as three corners in the following 15 minutes, but wasted them. Japan again came close to scoring on the 31st minute, but Takyoshi Kitazawa's over-powering shot found its way into the hands of the Korean goalkeeper Choi In-Young.

At the break there was no score.

Japan went ahead 1-0 in the 60th minute when Miura flicked the ball from inside the penalty box after getting a pass from Masashi Nakayama.

In the remaining time, the Japanese dominated with their Brazil-born Japanese natural-

ised player, Ruy Ramos, opening at least three opportunities.

The defeat came as a shock to South Korea which is seeking its third consecutive World Cup appearance.

Since its first World Cup bid in 1954 in Switzerland ended in humiliating defeats, South Korea has continued its build-up, making it one of Asia's leaders. Confidence increased after South Korea represented Asia in World Cup championships in 1986 and again in 1990.

But since 1990, many Korean fans have turned to professional baseball, making it the nation's most popular sport.

Meanwhile, Jose Candido of Saudi Arabia Monday became the second coach to be sacked during the Asian World Cup qualifying finals here.

The Brazilian was dismissed after Sunday's 1-1 draw with Iraq even though Saudi Arabia are well-placed to qualify for next year's finals in America.

He will be replaced by Saudi youth team coach Ahmad Al Khurashi who was expected in Doha Monday.

The Saudis had to come from behind to get draws against South Korea and Iraq. The Saudi delegation gave no reason for sacking the 48-year-old Brazilian less than a year after he took the job.

A statement released by delegation chief Prince Sultan Ben Fahd, son of the Saudi ruler King Fahd, said: "The team will be led for its last match by the Saudi coach Ahmad Al Khurashi."

"The Brazilian Jose Candido is no longer coach. His job was terminated after the match against Iraq."

Candido, formerly in charge at Brazilian clubs Santos and Flamengo, took over from countryman Nelsinho just before last year's Gulf Cup.

Saudi Arabia follow the Iraqis in calling in a few managers during the tournament to choose two nations for the World Cup finals.

Iraq replaced Adnan Derjal with the veteran Ama Baba Dawood after just one game in Doha.

Candido is one of a long line of top name Brazilian coaches to occupy the hot seat in charge of the Saudi team.



Iraq's Bassam Hameed duels with Saudi Arabia's Sami Al Jaber during the World Cup qualifying game in Doha Sunday (AFP photo)

No shortage of goals for top European clubs

PARIS (AFP) — There was no shortage of goals and no pity shown to top clubs hoping for an easy day out in the European leagues this weekend.

Parma went clear on goal difference at the top of the Italian first division when they scored a 1-0 win over visiting Reggina.

But they had to work hard for the points against a team who have yet to win a match this season. A goal from Alessandro Melli after 14 minutes sunk lowly Reggina but the absence of Colombian goal ace Faustino Asprilla made Parma look luckless.

They should still have won 2-0 but Gianfranco Zola blasted a second-half penalty against the post.

The match was also marred by incidents after the match when local supporters tried to attack rival fans as they made their way to the station. Five arrests were made.

Twenty-four hours earlier police discovered Molotov cocktails and iron bars in a warehouse close to the railway line where Parma hooligans had been planning to attack trains carrying rival fans.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM KIRSHI
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K10 ♣AK53 ♠10 ♠AKQ432
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ7 ♠4 ♠AK1082 ♠K52
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠983 ♠73 ♠AKJ33 ♠K108
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q108 ♠AJ4 ♠1074 ♠AKQ7
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q7 ♠753 ♠94 ♠A9632
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
Q.6—North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ876 ♠J987 ♠5 ♠K86
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ DBL Pass ?
What do you bid now?

T
O
D
A
Y

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Cinema Tel.: 677420
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CONCORD '1'
QUICK CHANCE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD '2'
THUNDER HEART
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema Tel.: 699238
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey wants to import Iraqi oil

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkey is pressing the United Nations to allow it to import Iraqi oil as Jordan is permitted to do, the Middle East Economic survey (MEES) reported Monday. The respected oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, said that Ankara argues that, like Jordan, Turkey was traditionally a major importer of oil from Iraq and have been badly hurt economically by U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. Turkish officials estimate that the trade embargo, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, had cost Ankara some \$3 billion a year in lost trade and revenue from pumping Iraqi oil by pipeline to the Ceyhan terminal on the Mediterranean coast. Jordan, which depended even more heavily on trade with Iraq, is allowed to import some 50,000 barrels of Iraqi oil daily by the U.N. sanctions committee. Western oil industry sources say that Iraq is also trucking some 30,000 barrels of oil a day to Iran and some 20,000 to Turkey, apparently in violation of the sanctions. However, MEES did not indicate what volume of Iraqi oil the Turks are seeking.

Iraq holds airforce exercise

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's airforce, which played little part in the 1991 Gulf war, carried out a four-day military exercise close to the southern city of Kut, Baghdad newspapers reported Monday. The air exercise, which took place with U.S. and other Western planes enforcing no-fly zones over the north and south of the country, was the first announced since the end of the war in which a U.S.-led multinational coalition ejected Iraqi forces from Kuwait. "General Ali Hassan Al Majeed, the defence minister, attended the exercises performed by the falcons of our valiant airforce which continues for four consecutive days," the newspaper said. Kut, 180 kilometres south of Baghdad, is north of the 32nd Parallel declared by the United States, Britain and France as the southernmost limit for the Iraqi aircraft to fly.

Iran carries out missile manoeuvres

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's news agency (IRNA) said Monday that Iranian forces are engaged in missile manoeuvres in the Gulf, amid reports that Tehran was planning to test-fire a medium-range missile capable of hitting Israel. The agency said the manoeuvres in the Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the waterway, were launched Friday. The exercises were code named "Saeq-3" said IRNA. "Saeq" means thunderbolt in the Iranian language. The Saudi daily, Alsharq Al Awsat, reported Saturday that Iran and North Korea were planning to test-fire a jointly-built medium-range missile capable of reaching Israel from Iran. Tehran denies the report.

EC 'dragging its feet' over trade — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The European Community (EC) has been slow to improve its economic ties with Israel following the signing of the peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 13. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has charged. In a speech at the Hebrew University here Sunday, quoted by Israeli newspapers, Mr. Rabin said the EC had been "dragging its feet" over economic ties with Israel, and had only pledged \$600 million in aid to the Palestinians during the transitional period. Mr. Rabin said the EC had "not done enough to secure the lifting of the Arab economic boycott of Israel," and had not made enough capital available for the Middle East economic development envisaged by peace negotiators. Mr. Rabin also said he was "shocked" at the EC's reluctance to renew a preferential trade agreement with Israel signed in 1975.

Iranian radicals to make comeback

TEHRAN (AFP) — An organisation of Iranian radicals — the association of combatant clergy — is to stage a political comeback after an 18-month break, a statement published in newspapers said here Monday. At a meeting Saturday the organisation's leaders agreed on the need to "have political presence," the statement said, following a call from Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that the association renew its political activities. The radicals bailed their political activities following their crushing defeat in parliamentary elections in April 1992, won by Islamic conservatives. However, they continued to criticise the policies of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and his parliamentary backers.

Prince of Wales to visit the Gulf

RIYADH (AP) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, will visit Saudi Arabia next month and two other Gulf states, British diplomats said Monday. The prince of Wales was expected to meet with King Fahd in the Red Sea Port city of Jeddah during his Nov. 7-9 visit to Saudi Arabia, said the diplomats, who refused to be identified by name. He will then visit Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, they said. Prince Charles last visited the kingdom in December 1990, to inspect British forces in the anti-Iraq coalition. Britain was the second-largest contributor to the U.S.-led coalition that evicted Iraq from Kuwait in 1991 Gulf war.

Libya to shut off itself

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya will break off communications with the rest of the world for 12 hours Tuesday as a mark of mourning for victims of the Italian colonial period. Libya's official radio said Monday. All Libya's international telecommunications will be suspended from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (0500 to 1700 GMT), the radio said, quoting a statement from the transport and communications ministry. All domestic flights will also be suspended. International air links with Libya were banned under a U.N. embargo imposed in April 1992. Tripoli claims that hundreds of thousands of Libyans were killed or deported during Italian colonial rule, between 1911 and 1942. Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi instituted a "day of mourning" in 1988 in commemoration of the victims.

Blind cleric getting \$12,000 jail 'suite'

NEW YORK (AP) — The government is spending about \$12,000 to build a two-room jail "suite" for Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman. Besides the standard bed, sink and toilet, Sheikh Abdul Rahman will have his own shower and a conference room with table and chairs in the Metropolitan Correctional Centre according to jail spokeswoman Sandra Burks. The cleric has sought to transfer from an upstate federal prison to be close to his lawyers while awaiting trial. Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 55, of Jersey City, is accused of masterminding a conspiracy that included the Feb. 26 World Trade Center bombing and a plot to blow up other New York City landmarks. Six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in the trade center bombing. Authorities cited security reasons for the construction.

Iran, Kazakhstan agree on closer ties

ALMA-ATA (AFP) — Iran and Kazakhstan Monday agreed to boost economic cooperation to give new momentum to their relationship. Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a news conference here the two countries had "a large cooperation potential. If we carry out all our projects we will have very close ties with Kazakhstan." Agreements signed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Mr. Rafsanjani concern transports, notably maritime transport on the Caspian Sea, as well as industrial cooperation, customs and clearing operations between the two countries' central banks. Mr. Nazarbayev said 1993 would bring "a surge in economic contacts" between the two countries.

Commonwealth backs S. Africa, urges Turkish Cyprus pullout

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (Agencies) — The Commonwealth on Monday landed progress towards racial democracy in South Africa, but warned the process remained "fragile" and that "opposition from the extreme right wing" was on the rise.

"Major progress had been made at the multi-party negotiations" in South Africa, and April elections and last month's passage of the Transitional Executive Council bill were of "decisive importance," said the final resolution.

"The developments marked a point of irreversibility in the transition and brought into sight the ending of apartheid," said the statement.

British Prime Minister John Major said the Commonwealth leaders had also "agreed to take concrete steps to tackle drug barons by promoting measures to stop money laundering... in essence to stop the movement of criminal money, to find out where it is and then take action to confiscate it."

In a press conference, Mr. Major praised democratic efforts in South Africa, saying "not all that long ago it was South Africa that divided us, now it is South Africa that unites us."

The Commonwealth summit demanded the speedy withdrawal of Turkish troops and mainland settlers from Cyprus taking a stronger than usual line on the war-divided island.

Instead of the dismissal of the Cyprus issue in one brief paragraph in the communiques of previous biennial summits, the draft, at the urging of the Greek Cypriot hosts of the biennial gathering, devoted four lengthy paragraphs to the issue.

Using stronger language than ever it said that the Commonwealth leaders "emphasised the need for the speedy withdrawal from the Republic of Cyprus of all Turkish forces and settlers."

Previous summit communiques called for the withdrawal of "foreign troops and settlers," using the same language as the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Cyprus which avoid mentioning Turkey by name.

The communique also emphasised the need "for the return of the refugees to their homes in conditions of safety, the restoration and respect of human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting of those missing."

"Expressing concern at the

influx of Turkish settlers, they emphasised that nothing should be done which would result in changes in the demographic structure of Cyprus."

Secretary-General Emeke Anyaoku has insisted Commonwealth action on Cyprus would be limited.

The 47 countries represented have already agreed to dispatch a high-level trade delegation to rescue stagnating negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A five-nation team of foreign, finance and trade ministers will tour six capitals aimed at breaking the GATT deadlock.

The mission, from Barbados, Canada, Ghana, Malaysia and Mauritius will travel to Geneva, Brussels, Bonn, Paris, Tokyo and Washington, ahead of the Dec. 15 deadline for conclusion of the GATT Uruguay round.

Uruguay, the final round of the GATT talks, is stalled over disagreement among the United States, Japan and the European Community over import tariffs and subsidies, particularly those included in the Blair House sub-agreement between Washington and the European Community.

Strike on Iraq for 'Bush plot' was 'seriously flawed'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House has denied a report that President Bill Clinton's order to bomb Baghdad last June after an alleged plot to kill former President George Bush was based on a "circumstantial" case that was overstated.

Seymour Hersh, a Pulitzer prize-winning investigative reporter wrote in the New York magazine, that the case against Iraq, at least as outlined in public was "seriously flawed."

The most glaring weakness, according to Mr. Hersh, was the assertion that a remote-control firing device, found in a Kuwaiti car bomb had the same "signature" as previously recovered Iraqi bombs.

Mr. Hersh said he had contacted seven experts in electrical engineering and bomb forensics and been told essentially the same thing by all. The remote control devices shown in pictures released by the White House were mass-produced items that "had not been modified in any significant way."

Mr. Clinton's senior adviser, George Stephanopoulos, said the Hersh article was "outrageous." In a CNN interview, he said:

"Every government expert who looked at the bomb established with certainty that it was the same profile as the Iraqi bombs, and there was no question about that by the FBI or the other government agencies that looked into it."

The article, in the magazine's Nov. 1 issue, says that other information has become

known to the FBI and White House "that there was a crucial, four-day gap between the arrest of the alleged assassins and their first mention of a car bomb and a plot to kill an American president."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said the information about the assassination plot against Mr. Bush was solid. He said the lag time between the allegations and the actions taken by the president were "because he had a serious investigative effort by the FBI, the CIA and the Justice Department, and they established the connection beyond a shadow of a doubt."

The United States bombed Baghdad on June 26 after the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) concluded that the Iraqi government had masterminded a plot to assassinate Mr. Bush during his visit to Kuwait in mid-April.

Eleven Iraqis and three Kuwaitis were tried in Kuwait on charges of plotting the assassination attempt. The three-judge panel that heard the case said it would issue a verdict by Saturday.

Thirteen of the suspects pleaded innocent. One Iraqi pleaded guilty, saying he received orders and explosives from Iraqi intelligence agents.

The New Yorker article said the FBI report contained no "smoking gun" directly linking Iraq or any Iraqi officials to the alleged assassination attempt.

But expecting that the report would quickly be leaked to the press, the president and his senior aides decided to order the bombing, Mr. Hersh said.

U.N. choppers, sensors scour Iraq for weapons

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. arms experts are scouring Iraq with sophisticated helicopters and hi-tech sensors in their biggest-ever hunt for banned weapons, a United Nations inspector said Monday.

Veteran Russian inspector Nikita Smidovich, leading a team of more than 50 experts, said they had inspected scores of declared and undeclared weapons sites during nearly a month in Iraq.

The arms inspection team is the biggest that the United Nations has sent to Iraq since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Its main job is hunting for hidden missiles and related items.

"Because of operational requirements we are employing for the first time three additional helicopters and some sensors in support of inspection activities," Mr. Smidovich told Reuters.

Working with Iraqi experts, the team moves around in a convoy of more than 20 vehicles.

The helicopters usually inspect sites away from Baghdad.

They have been spotted scouring the Iraqi desert as well as at Baghdad's College of Agriculture, at farms close to the capital, and at unexpected sites like bridges and residents' houses.

"They inspected everything, including the toilets," a Baghdad University student said after the team's visit.

"This is a multi-task mission and the emphasis is on missile-

related items," Mr. Smidovich said.

Iraq is allowed to keep missiles with a range up to 150 kilometres but under Gulf war ceasefire terms it must destroy the rest and the means of producing them.

"It is a long inspection. Quite a number of areas and sites were inspected," Mr. Smidovich said. He declined to say whether the team had found any banned weapons or components.

"We're still in the middle of inspection so I cannot disclose the results," he said.

Iraq handed over information on its arms suppliers and past weapons programme after intensive talks with U.N. officials in Baghdad at the beginning of October.

A senior U.N. official later said Baghdad was close to meeting most of the Security Council's demands for scrapping its nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons.

Mr. Smidovich said his team's main job was to verify on the ground information given to the U.N. special commission on scrapping of Iraq's weapons.

But Baghdad must still accept a strict U.N. weapons control and monitoring mechanism set out in Security Resolution 715.

Full compliance on weapons destruction and future monitoring is a prerequisite for any easing or lifting of U.N. sanctions which are crippling the Iraqi economy.

'Libyan stand likely to harden'

NICOSIA (AP) — An abortive coup reported in Libya last week is likely to make Colonel Muammar Qaddafi less willing to hand over two men wanted for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The coup attempt by Libyan troops in the east of the country "will probably make Col. Qaddafi more insecure and hence even less willing than before to alienate his security services by handing over the two intelligence officers accused by the western powers of complicity in the bombing," the weekly's political analyst, Charles Snow, wrote.

"As a result of the coup attempt, therefore, further sanctions on Libya are more rather than less likely," he wrote in the respected oil industry newsletter published in Nicosia.

It was not clear whether the reported coup by some 2,000 troops was linked to growing internal pressures caused by sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council in April 1992 in retaliation for Libya's refusal to hand over the suspected bombers wanted by British and U.S. authorities.

But Mr. Snow noted: "It is not likely to help resolve Tripoli's current standoff with the United Nations."

The United States, Britain and France are driving to widen the weapons, aviation and diplomatic sanctions to force Libya to surrender the wanted men.

The two Libyans are wanted for allegedly providing the timer of a bomb planted aboard the Pan Am Boeing 747. It exploded in mid-air over Lockerbie, Scotland, Dec. 21, 1988, killing all 259 people aboard the jetliner and 11 on the ground.

France is also demanding Libya hand over four suspects wanted for the September 1989 bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger in which more than 150 people were killed.

The proposed new sanctions include a freeze on Libyan assets held abroad and a ban on oil equipment, which could in time seriously impair Libya's oil exports, the country's economic mainstay.

Reports of the coup remain confused and often contradictory. But the trouble appears to have centered on the towns of Misrata, 200 kilometres east of Tripoli, and Bani Walid, 150 kilometres southeast of the capital.

The reports said that fighting erupted Oct. 13 and ended two days later after Libya's air force attacked mechanised columns moving toward Tripoli.

Since then, Mr. Snow noted, dozens of army officers have been arrested and a "purge of government employees has begun."

There has been no clear word of casualties in the fighting, it was the heaviest involving the Libyan military since spring 1986, when the army clashed with Libya's revolutionary guards.

Clinton and Mubarak call for resumption of Israel-Syria talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called Monday for a resumption of bilateral talks between Israel and Syria to keep the Middle East peace talks moving.

The two leaders emphasised the need for a resumption of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks after meeting for more than an hour at the White House.

"We have to keep going in this process until all the pieces are in place," Mr. Clinton said at a news conference with Mr. Mubarak, whom the U.S. president praised for helping bring about an autonomy agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Mubarak said the Israel-PLO agreement signed Sept. 13 in Washington had "boosted dramatically" the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

"On the other hand, negotiations on the other tracks must be resumed with full determination to reach agreement soon. Particularly important is the achievement of meaningful progress on the Syrian track promptly," he said.

"I believe the differences between the two parties can be bridged within a short period of time," he said.

Mr. Clinton said it was very important to the peace process that talks between Israel and Syria resume, but he also stressed the importance of maintaining a climate conducive to progress towards peace.

"There can't be a total peace in the Middle East unless there is some kind of peace with Syria," Mr. Clinton added.

Asked whether U.S. aid to Egypt would be reduced, Mr. Clinton said he continued to support "strong" American aid to Israel, but said the aid issue would be "a matter of close conversation" with Mr. Mubarak when they resumed

their talks over lunch. Egypt receives \$2.1 billion in U.S. aid annually while Israel receives \$3 billion making them the two biggest recipients of U.S. foreign aid.

Mr. Mubarak, recently elected to his third term as president, said he was convinced that the gap between Israel and Syria "can be bridged within a short period of time."

The talks have been stalled by Syrian reluctance to negotiate unless Israel guarantees in advance that it will cede back the Golan Heights.

"I believe that the people of Israel and the people of Syria want to see this process go forward," Mr. Clinton said.

But Mr. Clinton also said "we need to continue to make progress on the other tracks," including implementing the Israel-PLO agreement.

"We need to encourage a greater receptivity in the level of contacts between Israel and the other Arab states," he added.

Mr. Clinton praised Mr. Mubarak for playing "a crucial role in the Middle East peace process."

Mr. Mubarak invited Mr. Clinton to visit Egypt. Mr. Clinton said that since he had just gotten the invitation, "I haven't worked out my schedule yet."

Mr. Mubarak told reporters the tense and fragile ceasefire between rival factions in Somalia was also discussed in his meeting with Mr. Clinton. "We are watching the situation very closely," he said.

His visit came amid extreme tight security, with concrete barriers erected to close off all traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House.

Mr. Clinton said the security was "at the level we thought appropriate because of all the obvious tensions that surround the Middle East peace process."

Washington presses Haiti compromise

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — The United States Monday threw its support behind a compromise in Haiti that would remove the police from army control and give the military a congressionally ratified amnesty.

Embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger described the 11-point plan first publicly outlined over the weekend as "positive and useful" and "worthy of consideration."

The spokesman stressed that the compromise led to exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return has come from deputies opposed to Mr. Aristide, ousted by army chief General Raoul Cedras in September 1991 after seven months in office.

Gen. Cedras and interim Prime Minister Robert Malval were set to meet Monday to discuss the deal in hopes of resolving a political standoff, reliable sources said here.

In a meeting Saturday between Gen. Cedras and Mr. Malval, the pro-military legislators proposed a compromise that would ratify an amnesty given by the exiled president to the soldiers that overthrew him. It would also remove the police from army control and expand the cabinet.

Mr. Schragger said the meeting lasted four hours. Gen. Cedras and Mr. Malval also met on Oct. 7 and have been in indirect communication since

then, said Mr. Malval.

The U.S. spokesman said the United States backed the principle of a simultaneous principle of amnesty and separating the police and military. Expanding the cabinet would also strengthen Mr. Malval's interim government, he said.

But Mr. Schragger warned that U.N. sanctions would not be lifted again until Mr. Aristide returned to power. An oil embargo has crippled the transport sector.

The United Nations imposed an arms and oil embargo in June but lifted it in August after Gen. Cedras signed an accord agreeing to let Mr. Aristide be reinstated. It was reimposed two weeks ago.

U.N. envoy Dante Caputo appealed world leaders Monday to come to Haiti immediately to ensure security for lawmakers attempting to restore democracy.

Mr. Caputo, on live television and later in a news briefing, said such measures were needed given the state of terror in Haiti in the days preceding the scheduled return of Mr. Aristide.

Among former leaders whose presence Mr. Caputo has urged to come to Haiti within 48 hours are former presidents Jimmy Carter, Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay, and former prime ministers Brian Mulroney of Canada and Michael Manley of Jamaica.

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COLUMN 8

Mother Teresa meets Deng's son

PEKING (AFP) — Mother Teresa met with paramour leader Deng Xiaoping's disabled son Monday to discuss general cooperation in caring for the handicapped in China, an official spokesman said. The spokesman for the Chinese Federation for the Disabled refused to say whether Federation Chairman Deng Pufang and the 83-year-old Albanian-born nun discussed specific projects, such as her plan to open her first Chinese Missionaries of Charity home for handicapped children in Shanghai. The 1975 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who arrived in Peking Saturday after spending one day in Shanghai, may return to the eastern city before leaving China, the spokesman confirmed. He declined to give any dates or the reason for her return. Sources here said Mother Teresa, whose whole visit to China has been shrouded in mystery, had not planned to visit the capital and was now keen to return to Shanghai.

Diana asks to be 'rowing U.K. envoy'

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana, her future in doubt since she separated from her husband Prince Charles, has asked Prime Minister John Major to help her assume a new role as a rowing envoy for Britain, newspapers reported Monday. Prince Diana has spent almost a year in limbo since the collapse of her marriage to the heir to the throne. Now the popular princess has enlisted Mr. Major's support in her fight to avoid being shunned by the royal establishment and banished from public life, the papers said. He (Major) holds an unshakable belief in Diana as a national asset," the Daily Mail said, interpreting a meeting between the two last Wednesday as his move to halt the erosion of her position.

He is known to be anxious to prevent her being sidelined by the Buckingham Palace hierarchy," The Mail said. Mr. Major had overcome palace objections to clear the way for Diana, the Princess of Wales, to visit Russia in late November.

Officials confirmed Mr. Major visited the princess last week at her Kensington Palace home in central London, but were tight-lipped as ever about what they had discussed. "We never discuss details of these sorts of exchanges," said a royal spokesman at Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace. The Daily Express quoted "senior sources" as saying Princess Diana feared being sidelined by the queen's family.

It said that in the "unprecedented crisis talks" she had sought Mr. Major's assurance that the government wanted her to continue as a senior figure at home and abroad.

Drug addict who let baby starve to death arrested

ZURICH (AP) — Police arrested a 31-year-old drug addict whose baby was left to starve to death with the family's two dogs. The discovery last week of the four-month-old boy's skeletal body in an apartment complex sent shock waves through Switzerland, where child neglect is rare. Police only discovered the body after neighbours complained about the smell. The infant had apparently been abandoned for one month. Two dogs were also found dead on the balcony. The woman, a Yugoslav national who had lived in Switzerland for 16 years, was arrested in a part of Zurich popular with drug addicts after police received a tip-off.

Chickens guard Australia against deadly invasion

SYDNEY (R) — Chickens have been stationed in Australia's tropical north to guard against invasion by mosquitoes carrying diseases such as Dengue fever, health officials said Monday. The 80 chickens, known as "sentinel hens," are stationed on the outskirts of Rockhampton on the central Queensland coast. "We have four flocks of 20 hens, one on the city's northern border, and they take the frontal attack from the mosquitoes as they come into the city," said Greg Merry, chief health official with the Rockhampton City Council. "There are another three flocks on the city's east forming a spearhead for sea-borne mosquitoes," he said.